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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Delegation To Attend Madrid Conference

NC1910200691 Paris AFP in English 1941 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 19 (AFP)—The secretary general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], 'Abdallah Bisharah, on Saturday said he would head a GCC delegation next week to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Bisharah told AFP he would leave for the Spanish capital on October 28 to attend the conference due to open in Madrid two days later.

The GCC—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—will participate as an observer, Bisharah said.

He said the six will "support the clear Arab position which is based on the terms of U.N. Security Resolutions 242 and 338" which stipulate an Israeli withdrawal from Arab occupied territories.

Bisharah said the conference will be "historic and difficult."

"A lot of patience will be required," he said.

The GCC received its invitation earlier Saturday from the U.S. charge d'affaires in Riyadh, Richard Jones.

Arab Ministers To Plan Strategy for Conference

NC2010145591 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Amman, Oct 20 (AFP)—Senior ministers from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will meet in Damascus Wednesday or Thursday to plan strategy ahead of a Middle East peace conference due to start October 30, a senior PLO official said here Sunday.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told AFP the organization would urge the four Arab states to agree that the conference must produce "a comprehensive solution rather than separate accords with Israel."

The PLO is also insisting that "halting Israeli settlements (in the occupied territories) and the future of Jerusalem top the agenda at the peace conference," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

The ministerial meeting will aim to "strengthen Arab solidarity and to coordinate positions in order to avoid a normalization in Arab-Israeli relations before an Israeli withdrawal (from Arab land) and before Palestinian rights are guaranteed."

Palestinians will attend the Madrid conference as part of a Jordanian delegation and—to satisfy Israel—will have no traceable links to the PLO, which Israeli authorities say is a terrorist group.

Most Palestinian leaders have bitter memories of the U.S.-brokered Camp David accords of 1978 which led to a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty a year later but failed to induce Israel to recognize Palestinian claims for a homeland.

'Abd-Rabbuh arrived here earlier in the day from Damascus along with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat had talks Saturday with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and was to see King Husayn on Sunday.

The Bahraini prime minister, Shaykh Khalifah bin Salm:n al- Khalifah, also appealed Sunday for a coordinated Arab position at the conference.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), of which Bahrain is a member, will attend the peace forum as an observer.

The GCC—grouping Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman as well as Bahrain—will be represented by a delegation headed by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

Islamic Affairs

Tehran Conference on Palestine Convenes

Madrid Conference Termed 'Treason'

LD2010150991 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 20 Oct 91

[All names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—The Tehran conference on Palestine could overshadow the so-called Middle East peace conference planned by the United States in Madrid later this month if its achievements were put into proper practice, said a leading Muslim revolutionary today. Saad Jadallah, head of the Islamic Movement of Algeria, termed participation in the Madrid conference "a treason to the aspirations of the Palestinian people." In his address on the second day of the international conference for support of the Palestinian people, he pointed out that the U.S. objective behind its so-called peace conference was to bring under its hegemonistic control the resources in this part of the world. The four-day conference with leading revolutionaries from Palestine and the Islamic world in attendance, was inaugurated by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who pledged the full support of the Islamic Republic, even the dispatching of Iranian troops if necessary, to the struggle against the Zionist usurpers.

A prominent Palestinian leader likened the current American plots to the treacherous Camp David Treaty signed by Egypt and the illegal Zionist entity in 1978.

However, said Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, if Palestinians and Arabs could thwart the enemies' plots by boycotting the Madrid meeting "who could dare to take part in it." He asked whether the world's 1.2 billion Muslims were scared of the U.S., when a mere 17 million Vietnamese and quite recently the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, inflicted a humiliating defeat on Washington? Jibril's remarks were accompanied by chants of Allaho Akbar (God is great) from the audience which also included some 100 journalists from Muslim countries and other parts of the world. "This gathering will be a turning point in the struggles against global arrogance and Zionism," he said and went on to question the concept of peace when over 85 per cent of the Palestinian land is to remain with the Zionist enemy. "Peace will only be justified when Palestine returns to its pre-1948 status," Jibril made it clear refering to the days when there was no Zionist tumour in the heart of the Islamic world.

The vice speaker of the Jordanian parliament hailed the timing of the Tehran conference on Palestine, and called for united Muslim efforts to "uproot the cancerous tumour of Zionism." Sheikh Mohammad Abdur-Rahman Khalifa added: "Palestinian territory is an Islamic land and no one dare compromise it."

Egyptian Professor Mustafa Mashhoud, whose country is a leading advocate of the Palestinian sell out, aired a similar view in his address Saturday evening, and said the conference was being convened at a "crucial juncture in the history of the Palestinian people."

Prominent Egyptian writer Mrs. Safi Naz Kadhem was the next to take the podium. She said the Tehran conference was a means to confront all those who intend to sell out the Palestinian cause through the Madrid conference.

Speaker of the Sahrawi parliament Mohammad al-Amin ruled out any compromise over Palestinian rights and hoped the Tehran conference would "act as a catalyst to the heroic Intifadah raging in occupied Palestine."

The U.S. plan was termed "an international threat against Muslims especially Palestinians," by Pakistan's Asaad Jowzani, who urged Muslims to draft a resolution and hand it over to the United Nations for the expulsion of all outsiders from Palestine. "All Jews who entered Palestine after the Balfour Declaration should quit Palestine and return to their original homeland," he said.

Others to address the Saturday evening session included Nasser Othman, the editor-in-chief of the Qatari daily AL-SHARQ, Abdullah Othman, editor-in-chief of the Cape Town-based daily ECHO OF ISLAM, and Abdulalim Musa Friday prayer leader of Washington's Mustazafeen (the oppressed) mosque. The theme of their speech was the annihilation of the illegitimate Zionist entity and the funnelling of all possible support for the Intifadah in Palestine.

The last speaker of the day was Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad who said that the main objective of global arrogance was to suppress Islam. "The U.S. version of the new world order is a ruse to check Muslim potentials the world over," he said, and urged all those who support the rights of the Palestinian people "whether Muslim or non-Muslim" to await the outcome of the Tehran conference.

Continuation of Intifadah Urged

LD2010205891 Tehran IRNA in English 1957 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran Oct. 20, IRNA—In a statement issued here today, the participants at the ongoing International Conference on Support for the Islamic Revolution of Palestine urged the Palestinian nation to continue the Intifadah until victory.

"We representatives of the Islamic nations, including parliamentary delegations as well as popular, Islamic and patriotic movements, organizations and parties declare our support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people.

"We are all beside you (the Palestinian nation) and support your jihad and struggle. We are ready to utilize all our facilities and possibilities for the cause of Palestine and its liberation.

"Although our meeting is continuing, but we are determined to find every appropriate means in your support until your Intifadah achieves victory, God willing.

"You should know that you are not alone in this war. The entire Islamic ummah is with you, admire your efforts and condemn the plot to undermine the issue of Palestine."

Over 400 representatives from 45 Islamic states are attending the four-day conference which began Saturday.

Khomeyni Urges 'Aggressive Diplomacy'

LD2010203691 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—Iranian volunteer forces are ready to take up arms against the Zionist regime, said Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni today, and called on Iran to pursue "aggressive diplomacy" based on the outlooks of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

He also urged the Majlis to pass a bill to set up a separate fund for the intifadah in occupied Palestine "because the struggle against Israel is a war against the U.S. and Europe with no short end."

Addressing the International Conference for Supporting the Islamic Revolution of Palestine which opened here Saturday, the son of the late imam said "all basijis (volunteers) are ready to go to Al-Qods and fight if an

order is issued. Palestinians are awaiting an answer and we should help them practically."

Khomeyni asked related officials to assess the type of help the Palestinians need, and to provide them with all necessary information.

He said the stances taken by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Mehdi Mahdavi-Karrubi reveal that there is no ground for fear in the Iranian diplomacy.

"We cannot fight Israel and compromise with the U.S. and Europe at the same time. Economic experts should base our economy according to the criteria of the war-time.

"We should realize that the world is hostile towards us only for (our commitment to) Islam. After the fall of Marxism, Islam replaced it, and as long as Islam exists, U.S. hostility exists, and as long as U.S. hostility exists, the struggle exists," he told the gathering.

The four-day gathering attended by ministers, officials, prominent revolutionaries and journalists from many countries was inaugurated Saturday by President Rafsanjani, who said that Iran was ready to join the Jihad for the liberation of Al-Qods and Palestine.

Ahmad Khomeyni, recalling his illustrious father's remarks in 1962, said that the holy Koran and the ulema were the main targets of the foreigners. "It is my obligation to warn you that the Koran and Islam are in danger."

Imam Khomeyni had drawn a line between ordinary Jews and the Zionists, saying that the Zionists were wicked politicians who commit every act under the Jewish name, for which even the Jews hate them.

"When the imam (Khomeyni) declared the day of Al-Qods (last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan) all Islamic countries were scared, and without reason opposed it," he added.

Khomeyni also recalled the imam's advice to Palestinian leaders against negotiations, urging them to rely on Almighty God and the determination of the Palestinian people in the fight against Israel.

"Hasn't the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) ganged up with Zionists today, hasn't (Yasir) 'Arafat joined hands with (George) Bush today?," he questioned, blasting the trap set by the U.S. in Madrid later this month under the banner of the Middle East peace conference.

'Islamic Army' Advocated

LD2010202291 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i today proposed the formation of an Islamic Army by Muslim states to liberate Qods, and warned America that its plots could ultimately lead to the homelessness of the entire Jewish nation.

"Today the U.S. intends to destroy Palestine. Tomorrow is the turn of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. As a soldier of Islam, I declare that after Palestine it is the turn of these four countries to be subjected to the U.S. political-military invasions," he warned in his address on the second day of the International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine.

"As an army man I propose that this conference decide for a Palestinian Islamic Army. (I propose) each country accept the responsibility of contributing a brigade so that this Islamic army would take decisive steps in the future," the IRGC commander said to loud applause from the audience which includes leading figures from the Islamic states and other parts of the world.

He said "some time ago, the U.S. secretary of defence said the U.S. would not reduce the number of its forces (in the region) because the Middle East was still a center of crisis and that Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Iran were still centers of crises. What do these words mean? Don't they mean that after Palestine, these four countries will be subjected to America's new political-military invasions?"

Reza'i, stressing that the issue of Palestine was the most important question of the Islamic world, said today is the day of the political and military presence of the Islamic states and nations in the international scene.

"If the Islamic world is not going to decide on the question of Palestine today, when is it going to do so? If nothing is done for Palestine today, tomorrow will be very very late; if the bunker of Palestine is not maintained today, other strongholds will also fall one after the other," he said further urging the Islamic states to utilize their great potentials to this end.

Washington was never after peace but always after war and the continuation of the crisis, said Reza'i referring to the so-called Middle East peace conference planned by the U.S. in Madrid, Spain, later this month.

"The U.S. has designed a great plot for the next decade and is going ahead step by step. Those who unknowingly help the U.S. should know that had they not made this mistake and let the Islamic world decide itself, today they would not be forced to sit at the negotiation table," he said.

Reza'i asked: "If the U.S. has no ill intentions, why has it extended billions of dollars in aid to Israel and sent thousands of Jews from throughout the world towards occupied Palestine simultaneously with the collapse of communism and growing awareness of the Islamic world?

"But the U.S. should know that the more it tries to preserve Israel and strengthen it, the more anger it will cause in the heart of the Muslims against Zionism."

The U.S., said the IRGC commander, will be entirely responsible for the wrath of Muslims throughout the world.

"It (Washington) will be responsible for the homelessness of the Jewish nation, who will not be able even to find a shelter as Salman Rushdie does today," he said, equating the case of the apostate author who is still in hiding to the fate which could ultimately be the lot of the Jews in Palestine.

Islamic Jihad Leader Condemns PLO

LD2010200691 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine Fathi Shaqaqi here Sunday condemned any plan for appeasement with the illegal Zionist regime, and called for the formation of an Islamic fund and political and publicity cooperation of all Muslim countries.

In his address to the International Conference for Supporting the Islamic Revolution in Palestine which opened here yesterday, Shaqaqi suggested that a message be sent to the freedom fighters in Palestine. His proposal was accepted by the conference.

He said the intifadah has managed to stand against the Zionists for the past four years and that it is "indefeatible".

Amid cries of Allahu Akbar (God is great) from the cheering audience which included government officials and revolutionaries from many world countries, Shaqaqi said "the stones being thrown at the Zionist enemy are evidence of the resolve and determination of the Palestinians. I greet the stone-throwing children for and on behalf of 1 billion Muslims."

According to the leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, the father of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni, over a period of 10 years, delineated the course of struggle against the Zionist regime.

He blasted the decision of the Palestinian National Council which last month in Algiers succumbed to talks with the United States and the usurper Zionist regime.

"The presence of Palestinians in the Madrid conference later this month will mean the betrayal of all sacred principles and the loss of Bayt al-Maqdis," warned Shaqaqi.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization is not any more a representative of the Palestinian people and ceases to have legitimacy at the Palestinian embassies in any part of the world," he made it clear.

The leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine addressed himself to the PLO saying "you fear the threats of the United States and fear that if you refuse to participate in the Madrid conference you will have worse befalling you. Then know you that your participation in the conference will have the worst in stock for you."

He said after the appeasement with the Zionist regime the future of the Palestinians will be "unpredictable" because, he added, "the Palestinian nation has been exploited as a springboard for the expansionism of the Zionist government and the so-called peace plan is incapable of ensuring the unity of the Palestinian people."

Shaqaqi also proposed the formation of a bank of Palestine and the cooperation of Muslim nations for a common fund to be spent on common projects and tablighat (ideological and publicity operations).

U.S. 'Conspiracy' Seen

LD2010171391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] In continuation of the work of the International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, it was proposed today to set up an independent army, consisting of combatants of the Islamic countries, to join the Palestinian combatants. Our colleague 'Attaran reports on today's achievements at this conference:

['Attaran] [video shows conference hall and audience] The most important issues discussed in today's session were a boycott of commercial companies affiliated to the Zionist regime and the establishment of an independent army, consisting of the combative forces of the Islamic countries, to join the Palestinian combatants.

During this morning's session of the conference, the participants discussed the formation of three separate committees on ways of supporting the intifadah, preventing Jewish migration to the occupied territories, and the role of parliaments of the Islamic states in the allocation of budget and ratification of laws in support of the struggle of the people of Palestine. The heads of these three committees are: Majlis Speaker Mr. Karrubi, outstanding Lebanese scholar 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Mustafa Mashhur, a leader of the Islamic Brotherhood Society.

During this afternoon's session, which began at 1500, Fathi Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine, was the first speaker. He termed the intifadah as a movement receiving inspiration from the lofty thoughts of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: The Intifadah has come through four years of struggle and resistance and will continue the path of its martyrs, despite all the difficulties. He referred to the PLO's acceptance of the U.S. peace proposal as a betrayal of the Palestinian aspiration, adding: The philosophy of the formation of the

PLO is to strive to liberate the occupied territories, whereas the compromising work of this organization completely contradicts this objective. For the same reason, this organization no longer has any legitimacy among the Palestinian combatants.

Concluding his remarks, he proposed that the Tehran conference participants should send a cable supporting the struggle of the people of Palestine. This proposal was approved unanimously.

The next speaker was Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, who described the views of his holiness the imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, on the nature of the Zionist regime. In this connection he said: During the suppression of the monarchy regime, his holiness the imam courageously warned the Muslim nations of the danger of Israel and for this reason he was imprisoned and tortured.

He added: After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the imam did not abandon his struggle against the Zionist regime, despite U.S. threats and pressure, and used to refer to that regime as the sworn enemy of the Palestinian people.

He went on: The imam predicted what is being done today in order to destroy the Palestinian aspiration, and believed that the compromising stance of some Palestinian elements would destroy the honor and prestige of this Muslim nation.

In conclusion, he referred to the explicit remarks of the great leader Khamene'i and President Rafsanjani on offering every assistance to the Palestinian combatants. He expressed the hope that the convening of this conference would bear some positive and constructive results toward the liberation of Jerusalem.

The next speaker was Major-General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who in a speech referred to the United States as the source of tension in the Middle East region and the cause of division among the Islamic countries.

Referring to the U.S. peace proposal, he said: The United States should know that the more it strives to strengthen the Zionist regime, the more it intensifies the hatred of the Muslims against this country.

He went on: America's financial credits to the occupying regime of Jerusalem and the creation of Jewish settlements on this land are a sign of a big conspiracy which America is implementing step by step.

In conclusion, he suggested that an army should be set up, comprising the combative forces of the Islamic countries, to defend the holy land of Palestine.

Palestinian Affairs

'Complete List' of 14 Potential Delegates Given

List Submitted 19 Oct

NC1910162991 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 19 (AFP)—Palestinian representative Faysal al-Husayni on Saturday handed U.S. Consul General Molly Williamson a complete list of 14 potential Palestinian delegates to a Middle East peace conference, Arab sources reported.

Al-Husayni on Friday gave U.S. Secretary of State James Baker a list of potential delegates before Baker announced here that a conference would open in Madrid October 30.

Baker said their identities met requirements set by Israel and the United States, but later a State Department official described the list as "incomplete."

Williamson on Friday handed al-Husayni an invitation to the conference for the Palestinian delegates.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation spokesman at PLO headquarters in Tunis on Saturday said the list of potential delegates contained the names of 11 Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories.

Four other Palestinians invited to join a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation at the peace parley have refused to take part, according to the spokesman.

'Abd-al-Shafi Named

NC1910174891 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, Oct 19 (AFP)—A 72-year-old doctor from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip will lead the 14-member Palestinian delegation to a Middle East peace conference, Arab sources said here Saturday.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's name figures among 14 others in a complete list of potential Palestinian delegates to the forum, which was handed earlier Saturday to U.S. Consul General Molly Williamson, they said.

The list is the second given to the Americans by Palestinian representative Faysal al-Husayni. [passage omitted]

According to a Western diplomat here, al-Husayni will in effect lead the delegation although his name will not be on the list and he will not be present at the conference hall.

This, the diplomat said, would allow the Palestine Liberation Organisation to claim control over the Palestinian delegates.

The Arab sources here did not reveal the identities of the other Palestinians included in the list and they said that

their names will not be known until the Israeli cabinet Sunday endorsed the peace conference.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said he would recommend that the cabinet support the U.S.-Soviet initative because "there is no better alternative."

'Abd al-Shafi is chairman of the Red Crescent, the Islamic counterpart of the Red Cross, in Gaza and was the first vice- president of the Palestine National Council, a parliament-in-exile, in 1964.

He met Baker in Jerusalem on several occasions during the secretary's eight missions to the region since March.

'Abd al-Shafi is believed to have close links to the Palestinian Communist Party and is widely respected by the Palestinian leadership and residents of the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi May Head Delegation

NC2010154391 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 20 Oct GMT 91

[By Sakhr Abu-Al-'Awn]

[Text] Israeli-Occupied Gaza Strip, Oct 20 (AFP)—Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, tipped as possible leader of a Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, charged Sunday that the United States had agreed to all Israeli demands.

The 72-year-old doctor from the occupied Gaza Strip, in an interview with Agence France-Presse, refused to confirm reports from Arab sources that he would head the Palestinian team as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

"If I am chosen, then I will assume this responsibility," 'Adb- al-Shafi said.

"Our leaders agreed in Algiers to attend a peace conference. We don't want to allow Israel to have a free hand," he added.

The Palestine National Council, a parliament-in-exile, last month endorsed the peace conference and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's central council on Thursday approved a delegation to the forum.

A final list comprising 14 names of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was handed Saturday to the U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem, Molly Williamson, according to Arab sources.

'Adb-al-Shafi, who is also president of the Gaza Strip Red Crescent and the the first vice-president the PNC had in 1964, said Palestinians had to attend the conference, due to open in Madrid on October 30, "to defend our rights."

"We are going to Madrid to exchange peace for land," he said, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

But he charged that "until now the Americans have accepted all the Israeli demands."

"The United States must behave as an impartial judge and should not forget that Israel has rejected its demands to freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied territories," he said.

But he was not altogether pessimistic.

"If the Israelis really want peace, they'll have it."

"We will go to Madrid hoping for a real change and more justice for the Palestinian nation," he said.

According to 'Adb-al-Shafi seven Jordanians and as many Palestinians will sit together at the conferene table.

"But we will be flexible and in some cases, if the need arises ... there could be 13 Palestinians and only one Jordanian or the other way around."

Privately he has also said that the Palestinians who attend the conference will be representative of the PLO.

He also said there will be no flags or name plates at the conference table "so as not to give Israel a pretext to break off the negotiations."

He nevertheless hoped that there will be "no explosion among Palestinians" at the opening of the peace conference and called for unity in their ranks.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has rejected the peace conference and radical Palestinian leaders have also objected that east Jerusalem Palestinians, those from the diaspora and the PLO have been banned from the conference.

But 'Adb-al-Shafi, who has often been called to settle inter- Palestinian disputes in Gaza, stressed that "different views are part of the normal democratic process."

A modest, well-read man who has close links with the Palestinian Communist Party, 'Adb-al-Shafi has met several times with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his eight missions to the region since March to convene a peace conference.

In 1970 Israel expelled 'Adb-al-Shafi to Lebanon but three months later he returned home to the Gaza Strip following the intervention of the International Committee of the Red Cross and several other humanitarian groups.

Final Delegation Makeup Unclear

JN1910072491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[By Staff Reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Excerpt] Amman—Mystery surrounded the final composition of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East conference Friday as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials insisted that the organisation had not

abandoned demands for the representation of Palestinians in the diaspora and Arab Eastern Jerusalem.

Judging by various and sometimes contradictory accounts of the PLO Central Council (PCC) resolutions, the PLO was yesterday still seeking a formula to reconcile American and Israeli terms for Palestinian representation with PCC conditions for inclusion of representatives from outside and inside the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

According to PLO officials in Tunis, the PCC resolutions, which have not been published in details yet, authorised Palestinian participation at the peace conference but did not drop the representation of the Palestinians in the diaspora and of East Jerusalem.

The PLO officials' assertions appeared to contradict reports that a list of names, exclusively drawn from the Israeli-occupied territories, had been handed over to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Friday. The PLO officials contacted in Tunis refused to explain the contradiction but insisted there was no final list submitted to the Americans.

"No final list was handed to Mr. Baker, but the Palestinian delegation discussed with Mr. Baker names which the American official found acceptable," a senior PLO official said.

Names of Palestinian delegates from the occupied territories, however, have been already leaked to news agencies and newspapers, in contradiction with a PLO decision in Tunis that the list be announced after the problem of representation of the Palestinians in the diaspora and Jerusalem was solved.

Palestinian sources close to the PLO said that there were two formulas that were being discussed to solve this problem: First, that Jordanians from Palestinian origin would be included in the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The second option is to form an advisory or technical committee that would include Palestinians from the diaspora—including a delegate or more from East Jerusalem.

Palestinian officials in Tunis declined to reveal details of how the negotiations over this issue were being conducted. But they insisted that the final list had not been conveyed to Mr. Baker at Friday's meeting in occupied Jerusalem with a Palestinian team.

They said that Mr. Baker has received a blue print of the PCC resolutions which reiterates the same principles outlined in the Palestine National Council (PNC) declaration issued last month in Algiers.

Officials contacted differed on their interpretation of the PCC resolutions. By Friday night there still appeared to be major differences in Tunis over the PCC decisions. Some officials insisted that the resolutions stipulated an immediate halt to Israeli settlements and the representation of all Palestinians at the conference as two final conditions for Palestinian participation. Others said that it was a qualified acceptance.

Some even indicated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ignored the conditional acceptance and gave the green light to Palestinian Faysal al-Husayni to convey the PLO's acceptance to Mr. Baker without consulting with the executive committee.

In the final analysis, however, despite the differences the PLO cannot backtrack on its decision to authorise of Palestinian participation, according to those PLO officials contacted by the JORDAN TIMES.

The controversy over the issue had reached a point late Friday that 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, the representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was on the verge of resigning from the PLO Executive Committee, sources said.

Sources in Tunis said late Friday that the name of the Palestinian delegates will be published in Jerusalem's AL-FAJR newspaper quoting a Palestinian spokesman. The sources did not reveal the names. [passage omitted citing news agency reports on Secretary Baker's talks with Palestinian negotiators]

West Bank Official Happy With U.S. Guarantees

LD1910195691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We contacted Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi in her home in the occupied West Bank; she is one of those who negotiated with Mr. Baker. We asked her about the U.S. guarantees for the Palestinians. She said:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We hope the countries which have extended the invitation will keep their word in an attempt to bring pressure to bear upon Israel and take a firm stance. We hope that a solid and unified Arab stance will emerge on those issues in order that Israel will not deal separately with the Palestinians and try to impose its will upon them.

We have received an essential guarantee to the effect that the U.S. stance has been interpreting the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 as land for peace. This means for us an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. This is a very positive thing upon which our agreement was made, as well as on a number of other topics.

What has encouraged us is the fact that Baker refused to give the Israelis the guarantee which they demanded, to the effect that the United States should reject the idea of an independent Palestinian state. The U.S. stance remains that it does not support the independent state; however, this does not mean that it rejects it categorically.

There were also other guarantees revolving around East Jerusalem, to the effect that the United States does not

recognize Israel's measures to annex it. That has alleviated our fear about the essential issue for us, which is the issue of Jerusalem.

Anyway, my name will not be among those negotiators with the delegation. We have officially reserved our right, however, to be among the delegation which includes advisors and counsellors. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Potential Chief Negotiator on Delegation, PLO

JN2010183991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1733 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza and potential leader of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, by an unidentified station reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, according to the latest information, you have been nominated to lead the Palestinian team that will participate in the Madrid peace conference at the end of this month. Is this true?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As a matter of fact, I was asked to join the Palestinian delegation that will go to Madrid. There was also talk about me leading this delegation; however, there has been no official request in this regard.

[Reporter] Are you personally ready to lead the delegation if you are officially asked?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, I am.

[Reporter] It was said yesterday that you refused to be a member of the delegation because it did not meet the criteria set by the Palestine National Council during its latest session in Algiers. How true is this?

['Abd al-Shafi] In fact, I do not know whether or not there were certain criteria concerning the Palestinian delegation, but I do think that efforts are being made, or were made, to form this delegation.

[Reporter] Will the delegation comprise Palestinian figures from outside the occupied territories and from Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-Shafi] So far, the final makeup of the delegation has not been determined; however, I believe that it will comprise Palestinians from the occupied territories.

[Reporter] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, let me ask this question, although it may be premature: Will the delegation have an indirect relationship with the PLO? And will it be entitled to make decisions in isolation of the PLO's will and decisions?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The answer is that the PLO enjoys the loyalty of Palestinians wherever they exist. At the end of the day, the delegation, no doubt, will refer to the PLO. The delegation, therefore, has a fixed framework of action; namely, our genuine and legitimate Palestinian rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state, and the rights of refugees in accordance with UN resolutions.

[Reporter] This is what the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, are demanding. On the other hand, Israel and the United States, Dr. Haydar, emphasize that the first phase of the negotiations will concentrate only on autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and that the right to self-determination will not be discussed. How true is this? And what are the positions the Palestinian team will take during the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] True. This is the Israeli position. The Palestinians do not object to the idea of phases, no matter how these phases are determined. But it should be taken for granted that the phases must lead to the definite Palestinian demand of establishing an independent Palestinian entity.

[Reporter] Is there any national consensus, or semi-consensus, in the occupied Palestinian territories regarding this action?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The great majority of the Palestinian people supports participation in this conference. There are some sides that oppose participation. It is natural to have different views on this; however, we hope that there will be no acute differences over this matter.

[Reporter] Is there coordination with regard to Palestinian action among the national personalities and the active intifadah leaders?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I will say that there is big agreement among Palestinians on all levels with regard to participation in the conference.

[Reporter] Concerning the content of the talks, in your opinion is there any agreement among a large sector of Palestinians in the occupied territories and the Diaspora?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, it is very clear that we will have no differences over our objectives behind this participation. Our objective is to call for achieving our right to self-determination. Any step that will start with this or pave the way for this is desired. In particular, we are concentrating on halting settlements in the occupied territories, especially since such a step paves the way for the serious negotiations that will take place.

[Reporter] Can you tell us about Palestinian flexibility at the peace conference? In other words, what is the issue that the Palestinians will never relinquish within the framework of their talks at the peace conference?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, we will go to the conference. Many will wonder, and they have the right to wonder, how we can go while Israel insists on its right to all Palestinian territory, denies the Palestinians' rights in their homeland, and establishes settlements based on this claim. The question is why are we going? The facts are as follows: We go to the conference, first, to prove

our sincerity and seriousness about seeking a just, peaceful solution. We also go to test the extent of the world's seriousness about standing alongside the values and principles it always advocates, such as the right to self-determination, human rights, and other similar issues. If there is no response to this objective, such as a halt of settlements, then I believe that the conference will lose its meaning or the objective for the sake of which it is convening. In such a case, the responsibility will belong to those who sponsor this conference; namely, America, the USSR, and the European states.

[Reporter] Can we deduce from this that the autonomous rule issue means that the Palestinians adhere to sovereignty over the land?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, yes.

[Reporter] And that Israel will not be in charge of sovereignty whether it pertains to security, defense, or foreign affairs?

['Abd-al-Shafi] With all seriousness, we insist on the principle of sovereignty over the land. The transitional phase might necessitate that Israel should be in charge of security, for example, however, it is a transitional phase. But if Israel recognizes our right to sovereignty over the land, and this could mean....

[Reporter, interrupting] And this is ruled out under the current circumstances?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Could be. At any rate, I will determine what will pave the way or what will block the road. If Israel does not want to halt the settlements and rejects Palestinian sovereignty over the land at any phase, then this will mean that the road is blocked to the possibilities for peace.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, for this interview and the clarifications it included.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

'Arafat To Meet With USSR's Pankin in Paris

AU2110095491 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 21 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat will travel to Paris Tuesday [22 October] for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on the upcoming Middle East peace conference in Madrid, a Palestinian official here said Monday.

Ibrahim Souss, the Palestinian representative in France, said 'Arafat would also meet here with Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is in Paris for the signing Wednesday of the Cambodian peace accord.

'Arafat was in Cairo Monday to discuss with President Husni Mubarak a joint Arab strategy ahead of the peace conference due to begin in Madrid October 30.

'Arafat had similar talks over the weekend with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Jordan's King Hussein and a senior PLO official has said an Arab ministerial conference would take place in Damascus on Wednesday or Thursday to plan common Arab strategy for the talks with Israel.

The United States and the Soviet Union on Friday invited Arab and Israeli leaders to attend the Madrid peace conference. All the parties have agreed in principle to be there.

U.S. Said Holding All Cards; Violence Possible

TA1810180291 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Oct 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Cards Are in American Hands and Palestinians Are Apprehensive!"]

[Text] The closer the date of the peace conference gets, the more the possibility arises that extremists will resort to violence and subversion in an attempt to divert the peace process from its course. Despite the possible threat, the United States and the parties in the conflict are committed to advancing the peace process. After visiting Egypt and Jordan at the beginning of his current eighth trip, Baker's statements indicate that tangible progress has been achieved in efforts toward convening the conference and holding direct negotiations between the Arab states and Israel on one hand, and between the Palestinians and the Israelis on the other. Baker met yesterday in Amman with a number of Palestinian figures where preparations are under way to form a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. All that Baker said is summed by his remark: "Trust America and you will attain your rights."

Undoubtedly the Americans are serious in their efforts to bring about a settlement of the Palestinian problem, but it is obvious that Washington is refusing to give the Palestinians any guarantees or assurances about the goals of the conference. The only thing to which Washington is committed is implementing international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The only commitment made by Baker is that the Palestinians and the Israelis will sit at the negotiating table to reach agreement on autonomy for an interim period. The Palestinians, however, are insisting on a linkage between autonomy and a final settlement of the problem. This demand is rejected by Israel.

Perhaps what worries the Palestinians most is that they are being asked to have absolute confidence in the United States and to accept everything that Washington proposes. This is one of the most difficult demands, because our people have suffered from the Israeli occupation which has lasted for about a quarter of a century. During this period, Washington has not provided any proof that its intentions are sincere, that it stands by right and justice, and that it will not support Israel in all its policies.

We do not deny that recently a new tendency has appeared in the U.S. Administration, for this administration has begun moving away from its absolute support for Israeli policy, so much so that it refused to give Israel guarantees out of fear that the Arabs and the Palestinians might ask for similar guarantees. President Bush was clear when he suspended the loan guarantees to Israel and called for a freeze on settlements.

The U.S. Administration has managed to drive each party into the corner that the administration desires and has obtained the consent of all the parties to participate in the peace conference after depriving each party of its winning cards. All cards now are in the American hands. This situation, in turn, places extremists on all sides in a state of alert and agitation, and they will try their utmost to subvert and derail the process. When we say this we do not exclude even some of the officials in these sides. The question remains: Will these parties be able to destroy the constructive steps that have been reached and which could lead to a ray of hope at the end of the dark tunnel in which we are moving?

Ultimately the responsibility lies in the ability of the region's nations to stop any destructive tendencies that seek to foil this conference. The Palestinian people have suffered painfully for long years and yearn for a way out of their ordeal. Do the Israeli people and their leadership feel the same way—that they need to reach a settlement, give the Palestinian people their rights, and relinquish the occupied territories in return for peace?

Algeria

Algeria Agrees to Observer Role in Peace Conference

LD2010172391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Following the announcement on holding the Middle East peace conference in Madrid on 30 October, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman made a statement in which he said, in particular, that Algeria has decided to respond positively to the invitation extended to the Maghreb countries to attend the conference as observers. The deciding factor for this decision was the Palestinian position, whereby the PLO officially agreed on the participation of the Palestinian side in this conference and hoped that Algeria and the other fraternal Arab countries invited would accept the invitation in support of the Palestinian people and their leadership.

Egypt

Soviet-U.S. Announcement on Conference Welcomed

NC1810185891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt welcomes the announcement by the Soviet Union and the United States on convening the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October. Egypt stressed that the peace conference will open the way for achieving peace, security, and stability in the region. This came in a statement by Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign liaison. He said that Egypt hopes that all the parties concerned will cooperate and exert utmost efforts to make the conference a success and achieve its goals—a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue so that a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace can be established in the region.

Observer Team To Attend Conference

NC1910103291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak announced in statements to the press today that Egypt will participate in the international Middle East peace conference, which will be held in Madrid on 30 October, with a team of observers. He said that the U.S. and USSR presidents will attend the opening session of the conference.

The president was asked about Egypt's negotiating experience and whether the parties taking part in the conference can benefit from it. He replied: We should not be hasty about these things, because the talks will be held between Israel and the parties concerned. He added: If anyone wishes to benefit from the Egyptian experience, we will not hesitate to offer our help. He asserted that Egypt is helping to establish what is right.

The president made these statements today during his inauguration of the civil industries exhibition, which is being held by the Arab Industrialization Authority.

Musa Views Conference Role

NC1910150591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa emphasized in press statements today that Egypt will attend the opening session of the peace conference but there will be no bilateral negotiations between Egypt and Israel because there are no issues requiring discussions with Israel and there is no Egyptian- Israeli committee within the framework of the conference.

He said that Egypt will follow the peace process day by day and subject by subject and that it will be ready to consult and cooperate with the parties concerned.

'Amr Musa affirmed that Egypt is not a neutral party but an Arab party and it can contact all the parties and talk with all those present inside and outside the conference hall.

He said the peace conference will be convened on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that Presidents Gorbachev and Bush will open the conference, which will be held at the foreign ministers level.

He said the invitation that has been extended to Egypt is signed by the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state and it refers to the intensive consultations that were conducted with all the Arab states, the Palestinians, and Israel.

The invitation notes that a historic opportunity is available to establish real peace in the region and that the two superpowers are prepared to help the parties concerned achieve a just and lasting settlement through direct negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with the aim of establishing real peace. For this reason, the presidents of the two states have invited the parties to attend the peace conference and are awaiting acceptance of the invitations, which have been extended to Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestinians.

Musa said the invitation also points out that the two superpowers are committed to the success of this process that provides hope for ending decades of confrontation and conflict and for aspiring to permanent peace. He called on both parties concerned to enter the talks with sincere intentions and mutual respect so the peace process can begin by shattering the suspicion and lack of confidence resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said Egypt will reply to this invitation in the next two days.

Musa pointed out that Egypt believes a just settlement to the Middle East crisis has clear foundations that place new commitments on all parties to the Arab-Israeli

conflict, obtaining their complete rights, and recognizing one another, foremost of which is Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 and restoration to the Palestinian people of their legal rights and self-determination.

Musa noted the Palestinian issue will be solved in two stages: a transitional stage and a final stage that will define the status of the Palestinian territory, the right to self-determination, and political rights. He said all issues will be discussed and the other issues depend on progress in the peace process. He stressed that the Palestinian party is a major one in the negotiations and has the right to negotiate all issues related to the Palestinian people, their land, and rights.

Musa pointed out that the peace conference will be opened with speeches by Soviet President Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush in Madrid on 30 October. The delegation heads will speak afterwards and define their positions. Bilateral negotiations will begin among the participants a few days later. He stressed the importance of Arab coordination, saying it is necessary and important and will take place at the proper time.

Musa said the expected negotiations at the peace conference will be long. He said no one should despair but should have patience and insistence and learn the art of negotiating. He noted that a Soviet-U.S. summit will be convened the same day the peace conference opens.

It is worth noting that taking part in the conference will be the EC represented by Hans van den Broek, Netherlands foreign minister and current EC chairman; the Gulf Cooperation Council, represented by Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah; and the UN secretary general's representative, all as observers, along with a number of other countries, including Tunisia and Morocco.

Mauritania

Nouakchott Agrees To Attend Conference as Observer

LD2010230891 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] This morning the Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministry issued the following statement:

It has been decided that the Middle East peace conference be convened in Madrid on 30 October 1991. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has already agreed in principle to the idea of convening this conference, on the basis of UN resolutions, in response to the wish of the Arab parties directly concerned by the matter, and in the interest of international peace and security. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which has received an invitation from the joint Soviet-American chairmanship to attend this conference as an observer, has decided to accept this invitation.

President Receives 'Arafat Letter From Envoy

LD2010230391 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) and head of state, received this morning His Excellency 'Abd-al-Shafi Mahmud Siyam, ambassador of the state of Palestine to our country. During this meeting, the Palestinian diplomat delivered to the Mauritanian president a letter from his brother, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Baghdad Protest Alleged Turkish Air Raids

JN1610163091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Iraq has once again protested Turkish violations of Iraqi airspace and the bombing of residential neighborhoods in the (Jigova) residential complex in the Zakho district, and the (Miradeze) complex in the al-'Amadiyah district.

In a letter addressed to the UN secretary general, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn affirmed that Iraq reserves the right to take the measures it deems appropriate in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

The following is the text of the foreign minister's letter:

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar;

Your Excellency: I am honored to inform you of new facts related to the Turkish aircraft violations of the territory, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq, targeting residential neighborhoods in northern Iraq as follows:

1. At 0800 [0500 GMT] on 12 October 1991, six Turkish planes raided the Jigova residential complex in the Zakho district, causing the martyrdom and wounding of a number of civilians.

2. At 0840 on the same day, a group of Turkish warplanes raided the Miradeze complex in the al-'Amadiyah district, causing the martyrdom of two citizens, including a woman, and the wounding of nine others, including three women and three children, and the demolition of five houses.

We reaffirm the Republic of Iraq's strong protest of these blatant Turkish violations of the Republic of Iraq's territory, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, which constitute a clear contravention of the UN Charter and the rules enshrined in international law, and which also gravely harms the principles of good neighborliness and the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the Iraqi and Turkish peoples. While apprising you of these flagrant violations of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, we would like to inform you that the Iraqi Government reserves the right to take the measures it deems appropriate in accordance with international law and the UN Charter to tackle the violations committed against the safety of its citizens on its territory. We ask Your Excellency to intervene and take the measures dictated by the UN provisions and principles—the measures that would halt these violations and ensure that there will be no repeat of them in the future.

Your Excellency: Will you please ensure that this letter of ours is circulated as a Security Council document. Please accept my best regards.

'Hostile' Turkish Policy

JN1910143491 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 19, INA—The English language newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said that the recent Turkish cross-border military operations in northern Iraq have already taken strains in Iraqi-Turkish relations to a new pitch and that since the start of the Gulf crisis, Turkey, Iraq's northern neighbour, has behaved in a way that does not correspond to the long-standing cultural and social ties that bind the two countries' peoples.

It editorially said today Turkey was the first to apply the unjust economic embargo against Iraq, choking off its main oil lifeline to the Mediterranean.

The paper added the Turkish Government also accepted to be used as a springboard for the U.S-led coalition attacks on Iraq. Turkish land was turned into a base for the anti-Iraq air muscle which carried out round-the-clock raids on Iraq's infrastructure.

As the war guns fell silent, Turkey's hostile policy remained on the move. In defiance of neighbourly feelings among the Turks, Ozal's government so wantonly seized on the issue of Iraq's Kurds who were forced by war events to cross the border into Turkey, it pointed out.

The Iraqi paper further added that the Turkish Government tried to portray itself as the region's haven and the sole defender of Kurds. Foreign troops were allowed to deploy in Turkey, which remained a base for these troops' subsequent encroachments on Iraq's territories.

The paper stressed that Kurds are more persecuted in Turkey than elsewhere. They enjoy much less rights than they do elsewhere. Yet Turkey has been trying to put its chronic Kurdish problem in the shadow by trumpeting the "plight" of Iraqi Kurds.

No matter how hard Ozal's government has tried to keep it hush-hush, the real plight of Kurds in Turkey has finally surfaced, leaving the Turkish Government with very little to brag about, the paper concluded.

Kurdish Leader Barzani on Peace Accord

PM1710150991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 91 p7

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and of the Kurdistan Front, by 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Barifkani in Rawanduz, northern Iraq; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barifkani] The world is going through historic political changes and there is a chance for the establishment of peace in the Middle East. What future steps are envisaged toward a permanent solution to the Kurdish problem in Iraq?

[Barzani] Our dialogue with the Iraqi Government has been going on for five months and we have made great strides toward a peaceful settlement. We have drawn up the final draft of the normalization document and of the new autonomy law. We have basically agreed on the principles governing the implementation of democracy in Iraq, namely a multiparty system, freedom of the press, free elections, and separation of the authority of the party from that of the state.

One important point remains, which is definition of the autonomy region. Negotiations are in progress with a view to arriving at a formula on that point acceptable to both sides. As soon as such a formula is achieved, we hope to be able to announce the laws discussed.

[Al-Barifkani] Some Kurdish sources expect you to continue your attempts to persuade the Kurdistan Front parties to facilitate a peaceful settlement of the Kurdish question. Are there any obstacles standing in the way of such a settlement at this point?

[Barzani] The entire Kurdish issue is a very complex and intricate issue. The Kurdish revolution broke out 30 years ago. Many very big problems have emerged over the past 30 years. Clearly, what is destroyed in one day takes years to build. We are not trying to remedy the results of fighting that continued for three decades. That is no simple matter considering the tragedies and calamities that have occurred over the years, the authorities' very harsh treatment of us, and the loss of confidence between the two sides. What we have managed to achieve is that we are able to establish a good degree of trust between us and the government. Without trust no results can be achieved.

Autonomy cannot be implemented by force or in an atmosphere where confidence is lacking.

There is agreement among all the Kurdish parties on the general basis of the dialogue. The Kurdish negotiating delegation represents the Kurdistan Front members. What has been achieved has the full approval of all the parties and not just one party.

When we reach the final phase, the phase of signing the laws, then each party can announce its position of approval or reservation. That would be up to every member of the Front.

[Al-Barifkani] The world is no longer controlled by what was known as the balance between the two superpowers. Now there is only one power. The Cold War has come to an end and there is a harmony of interests. Could that help in ending the Kurdish-Iraqi war?

[Barzani] The era of small, internal wars must end on the basis of the new world order. The best example one can cite here is the end of the Ethiopian-Eritrean war, which was the longest African war, having raged on for 30 years.

The United States is undeniably the decisionmaker at the world level, but that does not mean that nations should lose their self-confidence or that they should do what the United States or other states dictate. The importance of the U.S. and European roles in the new world order must, however, be emphasized.

We live in Asia. The Kurdish question is a very complex question. The Kurdish people were done a historical injustice when their territory was partitioned against their will.

After the bitter experiences of the Kurdish liberation movement, we began to address the situation with logic and wisdom. Logic and wisdom are in line with the new world order, confirming that war cannot be the ideal solution to the Kurdish problem or any other problem in the world.

The Kurdish revolution in Iraqi Kurdistan began in 1961. The Kurdish people took up arms continuously for 30 years in defense of their existence and rights. We tried to change the regime in Baghdad and that regime tried to annihilate our people. Neither the regime nor the Kurdish revolution was able to achieved its objectives by war. That, regardless of the international changes, confirms that the peaceful solution is the right solution.

[Al-Barifkani] Is there a new round of talks with the Iraqi Government?

[Barzani] The Kurdish dialogue with Baghdad has reached its conclusion. All the studies have been completed. All that remains is agreement on a draft law specifying the autonomy region. Once agreement is reached on the drafting of the paragraphs related to defintion of that region, the agreement will be announced.

[Al-Barifkani] Is this a confirmation that there are no differences between the two sides?

[Barzani] If you asked me as a Kurd whether there was full agreement or not, I would say no, there are shortcomings; but I do not see a better alternative to such an agreement.

The dialogue has passed through several stages and we have reached agreement on most issues. There were positive points in the dialogue but there were also points of weakness, which we tried to rectify and overcome in order to develop the agreement in the interest of the Kurdish masses, who are living in difficult conditions after their return from the camps on Iraq's borders with Iran and Turkey.

During the dialogue we reached a point which we considered a good basis for agreement, even though there was no full agreement and no ideal agreement. There are some gaps which can be closed in the future.

The autonomy agreement will open new horizons for the Kurds, allowing them to return to the land of their fathers and forefathers. The agreement could give us very many positive gains at this stage.

[Al-Barifkani] Do you believe that the Iraqi Government wants these negotiations to produce positive results?

[Barzani] I believe that the Iraqi Government has benefited from past experience, and we have arrived at the conviction that the path of peace is the right one. I think that the Iraqi regime has also arrived at the same conclusion. That is why we have tried most carefully from the beginning to find grounds for understanding, and we have achieved that. We began from sqaure one, opening a new page on the basis of mutual confidence and interdependence. We have achieved positive results in this dialogue, which has been going on for five months.

[Al-Barifkani] What is the Kurdish movement's plan for the Kurds of Iraq?

[Barzani] The first task is to rebuild our economy in a way that would allow all sectors of Kurdish society to take part in the reconstructions process, heal the war wounds, and lay the foundations of a good and sound economy.

The second task, which should run parallel with the first, is to work for the repatriation of large numbers of our people to Iraqi Kurdistan. They need help to come back. At the same time we want to rebuild a minimum level of the infrastructure destroyed over 30 years of war.

[Al-Barifkani] Has the flow of humanitarian aid to the Kurdish areas been confirmed, and have there been calls for the expansion of that aid to cover development projects?

[Barzani] We must thank the states, organizations, and individuals who have contributed in one way or another to the provision of humanitarian aid for the Kurdish people; however, the truth is that the destruction in Kurdistan has been so great that it requires greater attention, efforts, and resources. In all circumstances, the first thing the Kurdish people need is security and stability. That comes before their need to rebuild their region because, if reconstruction is not coupled with peace, all that is built will be destroyed in the event of war.

[Al-Barifkani] Has there been any fighting recently between the Kurdish forces and the Iraqi Army?

[Barzani] Some regrettable clashes have occurred in the Taqtaq-Kuysanjaq area north of Karkuk. Actually, some individuals using the cover of one party or another dragged the Kurdish movement into a situation not of its own choice. They fabricated some incidents and there was a reaction by the Iraqi Army. The situation has been brought under control with joint efforts from both sides.

The crucial circumstances we are passing through necessitate that we do not allow a group of irresponsible people to drag us into a certain situation and restart the fighting in Kurdistan, which is not in the Kurdish people's interest.

Now the situation is calm. The Army has returned to its positions, the people of Kuysanjaq have returned to their areas, and the problem has been contained.

[Al-Barifkani] Some news agencies have reported that the Kurdish tribes intend to form a new organization, to be called the Kurdish Tribes Association, which might change the balance of powers in the Kurdish region controlled by Kurdish rebels. How do you view that new move?

[Barzani] First of all, there was some exaggeration in the report or description of that move.

Secondly, the tribal system and tribal relations in Kurdistan are strong but not as strong as they used to be.

The information we have confirms that there are attempts to organize tribal relations, and that is a good thing.

[Al-Barifkani] Very important questions are being raised about the future of Karkuk. How do you view the future of that city?

[Barzani] It has been agreed to normalize the extraordinary conditions in all Kurdish areas and to abolish the policy of Arabizing the areas which have been under the control of the central authority, especially Karkuk. Repatriation of its Kurdish population and abolition of the exceptional conditions there constitute an important phase and a positive objective that would prepare the ground for raising the question of the city's future. Karkuk is in the heart of every Kurd. Nobody has ever described it better than my late father, Mulla Mustafa Barzani, who called it "the heart of Kurdistan." Nobody can compete with us in this connection because nobody has offered more sacrifices and martyrs for Karkuk than we have.

Holds 'Secret' Talks

NC2010164491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] According to Kurdish sources, Iraqi Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani held secret talks with a senior envoy of Turkish President Turgut Ozal and a U.S. State Department official in northern Iraq yesterday. The sources said the talks were held in [place name indistinct] while a group of Kurds were waiting in the nearby town of Dahuk [words indistinct] Barzani, who is currently touring northern Iraq to win support for the autonomy plan he negotiated with the tyrant's regime. The plan is being met with large-scale public opposition.

No details are available yet on Barzani's talks with the Turkish envoy; however, Iraqi Kurds protested to Turkey over Turkish raids across the border against gunmen of the Kurdistan Workers Party who are seeking autonomy for the Kurds in Turkey.

Barzani (?visits) Damascus for the first time since the [word indistinct] uprising [words indistinct] at the end of [word indistinct].

A Kurdish source said Barzani [words indistinct] and left through the backdoor and headed for a secret meeting in [placename indistinct] as a huge crowd of his supporters waited outside the building.

Barzani is coming under pressure from another Kurdish leader, Jalal Talabani, who competes with him to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi Kurds. Talabani, who leads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, opposes the draft accord Barzani reached with the tyrant's regime. The negotiations with the defeated regime reached a deadlock because of differences between the two Kurdish leaders, who are prominent members of the Kurdistan Front, which groups the main factions of armed Kurds in northern Iraq.

In another development, a spokesman for the Turkish general staff said Turkey will continue military attacks on armed Turkish Kurds in northern Iraq if need be.

Israeli Overflights 'Calculated Act'

JN1910205391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has reacted to statements made by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Wednesday, 16 October.

In a statement to INA, the foreign minister said: Following the violation of Iraqi airspace by four Israeli F-15 warplanes over the western part of the country on 4 October, I sent three letters—dated 6, 12, and 13 October—to the secretary general in which I explained the risks of that aggressive Israeli act.

In my third letter on 13 October, I detailed the Israeli violations of our airspace and drew the secretary general's attention to a very basic and serious point; namely, that the Israelis timed their warplanes' violations of our airspace in the western area to exactly coincide with UN helicopter flights in the same area, which were carrying teams on inspection missions of the region.

He added: I have informed the secretary general that the timing of the Israeli aggression to occur when UN helicopters were in flight was not a coincidence, but a thoroughly calculated act. We believe it was aimed at making our anti-aircraft defenses misjudge the situation and hit UN helicopters since these defenses are put on alert when hostile aircraft are expected to violate Iraqi airspace.

The foreign minister said: I have also informed the UN secretary general that we have the right to wonder: What would happen if Israeli aircraft were to fly over Baghdad or any other place in Iraq and attack us by taking advantage of the presence of UN helicopters in the same area?

He indicated that this highly likely coincidence puts us in a truly difficult situation: Either open fire with our air defenses to counter the Israeli aggression, thereby putting the airborne UN planes at risk, or sit back and let the Israeli enemy aircraft hit targets at will.

The foreign minister said: Setting out the facts frankly and responsibly has been our practice all along. My letter to the UN secretary general was, therefore, frank and based on facts.

The foreign minister continued: I asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to take all of this into consideration and, together with the Security Council, take the appropriate and decisive measures as UN secretary general to keep Israel from repeating its hostile acts violating Iraqi airspace and to give us guarantees to this effect. Our demand is legitimate and legal.

He stressed that the failure of the secretary general and the Security Council to prevent the Israeli enemy from continued violations of Iraqi airspace implicitly approves a recurrence of these serious violations. It also means that Mr. Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council are disregarding the potential risk to UN planes in the event of Israeli military aircraft happening to be flying in the same Iraqi airspace where UN planes are also flying.

The foreign minister said: I have looked at the text of the secretary general's remarks responding to two questions. His observations are as follows: A journalist asked the secretary general about the Iraqi charge that Israeli military aircraft use helicopters as a kind of shield for flying over Iraqi territory. Perez de Cuellar replied that this is untrue and groundless. The second question put to Mr. Perez de Cuellar was: Have you gotten in touch with the personnel who actually fly the UN helicopters in order to make certain that the Iraqi asserations are untrue? Perez de Cuellar responded: We have Ambassador Ekeus here in New York and I will meet with him today; however, I am convinced that this allegation is not true.

Reacting to Mr. Perez de Cuellar's remarks, the foreign minister said: We cannot fail to be extremely surprised by the pro-Western stance adopted by the UN secretary general. His reply to the first question refers to the fact of a coincidence of Israeli military aircraft and UN overflights as a charge. In my letter to the UN secretary general, I noted that the Israeli enemy had sinister intentions behind this coincidence, which I pointed out earlier. Did the UN secretary general mean by such an answer to defend the Israeli offense against the sanctity of Iraqi airspace? Israel itself has not denied violations of Iraqi airspace and a number of Arab and foreign states have condemned the aggressive Israeli action.

Concluding his comment on Perez de Cuellar's remarks, the foreign minister said that the Iraqi Government cannot possibly remain silent on the violation of Iraqi airspace by Israeli warplanes and it reserves its full right

to react to Israel's acts of aggression. The Iraqi Government is concerned about the security and safety of the inspection teams and the UN planes under ordinary circumstances, when armed aggression against Iraq and violation of its airspace by enemy warplanes do not exist.

In the event of aggressive acts whereby Iraq's airspace is violated in areas where UN planes will be flying, however, Iraq will not be responsible for the safety of the UN planes and those aboard them. If the UN secretary general and the Security Council are really concerned about the safety of the inspection teams and the UN planes, then they are dutybound, as stipulated by the UN Charter, to prevent the Israeli enemy from repeating its aggression against Iraqi airspace, taking advantage of UN flights, as happened on 4 October.

Any other position, the foreign minister said, will only reflect an attempt to mix cards and show bias toward the disgraceful positions adopted by some parties against Iraq, its sovereignty, and its people's security.

Finally, the minister stated, we would like to stress the content of our letter to the UN secretary general. We are awaiting an official reply to that letter.

Conference Termed Israeli 'Golden Opportunity'

JN1910151491 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 19, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily confirmed that international and regional developments and the ensuing changes had provided Washington and Tel Aviv with a golden opportunity to move towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an analysis published today, the daily said that two main international and regional changes had occured, the first was represented by the absence of the Soviet Union as an effective power in the international balance, and the second by the destruction of Iraq's military capabilities, confirming that both had created certain circumstances that affected the peace process in the Middle East.

The daily called the attention to the fact that regional and international balance dictated that Israel and the United States, once the peace conference convened, should accept relatively balanced solutions, especially amid the tense atmosphere created by the Palestinian uprising. But it stressed that now the whole situation must change, particularly after the role of the Soviet Union had diminished and after some Arab rulers had contributed, with the help of the United States, to undermining Iraq's strategic pillars, the matter that deprived the Arabs of a powerful factor they used to resort to as a means of pressure to acquire the best results in any political settlement.

The paper was sure that during the expected peace conference, the scales would tilt in favour of Washington and Tel Aviv and accordingly the Arabs would have no alternative other than accepting what they had rejected before.

It made it clear that the conference would link Israel's security to the security arrangements in the Arab Gulf, in which non-Arab states in the region like Turkey and Iran would take part.

AL-'IRAQ was confident that during the said conference, the issue of reducing or eliminating the military capabilities in the region would be settled at the expense of the Arabs, on the basis of an Israeli concept claiming that the Arabs were the ones who threatened the Israeli existence, the matter that would necessarily mean that peace could be achieved only by stripping the Arabs of their military capabilities.

Mosul Governor Reportedly Relieved of Post

NC2010174291 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tahir Tawfiq, the governor of Mosul, has been relieved of his post. The government intends to appoint Mundhir Nusayyif Jasim, a former under secretary of the Interior Ministry, as governor of Mosul.

Restoral of Soviet Ties Precedes Talks Approval

TA1810132591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1318 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi and his counterpart, Boris Pankin, have shaken hands and exchanged the protocols on the resumption of political relations. The protocols have been signed, and Israel and the USSR now have full diplomatic relations. The foreign ministers will shortly leave the building in order to make their announcements to the media.

Levi Statement on Restoration of Ties

TA1810134791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1321 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Statement by Foreign Minister David Levi "immediately after signing the protocols on diplomatic relations with the USSR with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin" on the Foreign Ministry lawn in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The USSR and the State of Israel, in their aspiration for cooperation and mutual understanding for the good of the interests of both countries, decided to restore diplomatic relations from the date of this joint announcement and to exchange diplomatic representations at the level of embassies. Both sides declare their readiness to maintain bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter, the rules of international law, and on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, and on nonintervention in the internal affairs of the other side. The sides express their certainty that the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the USSR and the State of Israel is in accordance with the aspiration for an overall settlement in the Middle East, durable peace, and stability in this region, and the development and strengthening of international cooperation.

Jerusalem, 18 October, 1991.

Soviet Announcement

TA1810135991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1323 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Statement by Vitaliy Churkin, spokesman for Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel immediately after Foreign Minister David Levi's announcement, on the Foreign Ministry lawn in Jerusalem—live, in English]

[Text] A joint statement on the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the USSR: Desiring to promote cooperation and mutual understanding in the interests of the two nations, the USSR and the State of Israel have decided to restore their diplomatic relations as of the date of issuance of this joint statement and exchange diplomatic representations at the level of embassies. The two sides state their readiness to maintain their bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter, rules of international law, and on the basis of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs. The two sides firmly believe that the reestablishment of full diplomatic relations between the USSR and the State of Israel fully serves the interests of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, the establishment of a lasting peace and stability in this region, and further development of international cooperation.

Jerusalem, October 18, 1991.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1320 GMT on 18 October carries live, broadcast in progress, a statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem "following the formal resumption of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union." Pankin, whose remarks are in Russian followed by translation into Hebrew, says: "....the resumption of diplomatic relations is in the mutual interest of both countries and will benefit both countries and the entire region. Of course, although there will be full diplomatic relations, neither country will intervene in the internal affairs of the other country. Each country will limit itself to its own affairs and not intervene."]

Shamir on Meeting With Pankin

TA1810141991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1352 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] At this moment the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, which followed Pankin's meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi, has just ended. Pankin is on his way out, and we are waiting for a statement by the prime minister. This meeting between Shamir and Pankin was short, as Pankin was pressed for time. Let us hear the prime minister's statement:

[Begin Shamir recording, in English] Let me say a few words about this meeting with the Soviet foreign minister. It was a very good meeting. It was our first meeting with Minister Pankin, and I think it will be a good beginning for our cooperation with the Soviet Government. I think we will meet with him in the regional conference, and we will have an opportunity to discuss many questions and many issues common to them and to us. [end recording]

The prime minister then said we will meet with the Soviet foreign minister at the peace conference. In other words, Israel is going to the peace conference. Shamir will recommend to the government to do so. The prime minister also expressed his belief that it is both possible and necessary to take risks for peace.

Pankin Briefs Press

TA1810154991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1425 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Joint news conference by Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, immediately after announcement that invitations to the Middle East peace conference have been issued, in Jerusalem—live; Pankin's remarks in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into English by official Soviet translator; processed from English]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Pankin] You heard of the joint Soviet-American statement; therefore, I have no other papers to read to you. I can only say that I fully share what has just been said by Secretary Baker. However, I would like to add a few comments.

The stage that we have now come to represents a very important turning point for the entire situation in the Middle East. We have come a long way and we have come a long way together. We made an important contribution to the meaning of this conference, and now in my capacity as future cochairman of the conference. [sentence as heard] A very important contribution has been made by all the others through their hard and untiring efforts.

As has just been mentioned by Secretary Baker, we have restored full diplomatic relations with the State of Israel and we signed a joint statement, a joint Soviet-Israeli statement, together with my counterpart Minister David Levi to that effect.

I want to emphasize that this is a logical and natural step, which is fully in accordance with the new realities .

This step does not represent a present that we are making to each other or a mutual challenge, and this step became possible because thanks to considerable success that we have achieved in bringing the meeting of the conference closer.

I would like to quote from the joint Soviet-Israel statement that was signed with Minister Levi today. I would particularly like to emphasize that the sides express their confidence in the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel which match the aspiration for peace. It meets the interests of the Government of Israel to join the conference in return for the resumption of relations, as well as the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the region, and the promotion of international cooperation. [passage omitted]

Let me add something to the remarks just made by Secretary Baker and say that while freezing settlement activity is not a precondition, however, the USSR made it known, and in very clear terms, to both Israel and the Israeli leaders, that Palestinians and the Arab states that will participate have very serious and grave concerns over that activity. It is indeed our [words indistinct] from settlements, and we hope this very serious signal will be heeded by the Israeli Government, which will be one of the items on the agenda.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] In your conversations with Prime Minister Shamir, did he lead you to believe that the Israelis are indeed going to trade land for peace? Have they, despite their public remarks on this, led you to believe privately that there is a basis for negotiations here? [passage omitted]

[Pankin] The question touched on Israel's desire to give territories in return for peace. There are questions which are being negotiated and will be negotiated before convening the conference and others that will be dealt with during the conference itself. Therefore, this subject that you have just mentioned, the principle that you have mentioned, will certainly be the key here to the principles that will be discussed at the conference, and certainly it will be the objective of the conference to deal with that. Of course, we have Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council which contain that principle.

[Qol Yisra'el's Gid'on Remez, in English] Question to both ministers, please. Secretary Baker mentioned that the multilateral talks would begin after two weeks by those sides who wish to participate....

[Baker, interrupting] Those parties who wish to participate.

[Remez] Yes, sir, those parties, but does the Syrian refusal to participate indicate to you that they are not entering even the bilateral talks in a bona fide search for peace? [passage omitted]

[Pankin] Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. It is my hope to continue these questions with [words indistinct] the Syrians on all the aspects of the conference and its preparations.

[Unnamed correspondent in Russian, translated into English] Since nobody has asked a question yet in Russian I will allow myself the privilege of asking it in Russian. I will ask a double question to the foreign minister. First of all, will the USSR be planning a balanced role, if you will, in this whole conference itself. Second, since it is going to be held in Madrid, is there a possibility that this thing might logically flow into another summit?

[Pankin] Let us be very frank with each other. Now to take your first point, there is of course this concept you are all aware of, and perhaps this is not an incorrect concept, that in the past the USSR tended to side with the Palestinians and the Arab states while the United States supported Israel, and this did not reap any tangible fruit. Now, there is the new approach, and the cochairman will agree that the new approach is not to have any kind of protegees whose positions are supported no matter what they say or what the issues on the agenda may be. Of course, the two cochairmen believe that their clear objective is to help the participants in the conference reach the final objective, which is to arrive at

a settlement in the Middle East and to ensure an opportunity for all nations and peoples here to live in peace and security. Of course, the USSR is not singling anyone out and it is not.... Remind me please of your second question. [question repeated in Russian] Does it necessarily have to be a very formalistic get-together? If our presidents meet, and of course they will meet, their agenda will not necessarily be limited to the issues that they will deal with on the Middle East, as important as it is. They, of course, have quite a number of items on the agenda to discuss.

Levi on Conference, USSR

TA1810163191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1325 GMT 18 Oct 91

[News conference by Foreign Minister David Levi immediately after his joint announcement with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on the resumption of diplomatic relations, at Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Levi] First, there was an anomaly in the nonexistence of full diplomatic relations between us and the USSR, but that occurred after what was—and there are those in the USSR who agree with the definition—a historic accident from their viewpoint. We said that what is called for is to correct that situation, and the USSR first and foremost must do it. Since my meeting with Mr. Shevardnadze in New York, the Israeli flag has been flying over our consulate in Moscow and the Soviet flag over the Soviet Consulate in Tel Aviv. That level had to be raised.

In my meeting with Mr. Pankin during my most recent visit to the United Nations in New York, we agreed that would be done, and that it was a matter of days. They did arrive here, and we resumed full relations. From this moment, they are at the level of embassies for all purposes. What is the significance of that? It will permit us to maintain an open dialogue on bilateral matters. We also agreed on the establishment of a supreme committee for economic cooperation and for many other fields. That committee will soon convene in Jerusalem and Moscow. We will be able to discuss regional issues, as we have been doing, openly and firsthand, not via somebody else. They will know about our affairs and we will hear from them. There is no force, we certainly cannot agree on everything, but there will be nothing which is founded on misunderstanding. They are participating in a conference which is meant to bring about direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

[Qol Yisra'el reporter Yo'el Nir] Mr. Levi, in view of the Soviet declarations in recent days, does today's signing mean that the peace conference has indeed been launched?

[Levi] We are not approaching this meeting to please anybody. It is an initiative by the Israeli Government which gained momentum thanks to the U.S. Administration's help. There were many problems and mines on the way. We had to toil quietly and hard to remove these obstacles and mines and to score the most points for our position. This is what we indeed did. We concluded most issues this morning. Several issues remain to be resolved, but there is no doubt whatsoever that the cooperation between us and Secretary of State Baker and his efforts to promote the process, his readiness to understand the significance and weight of Israel's positions so that we do not enter a conference that is strewn with potentially explosive land mines, is proving fruitful today, as is the full resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR.

[IDF Radio correspondent Yaron Deqel] Mr. Levi, can you elaborate on the remaining problems, the resolution of which the Israeli Government is awaiting before giving its final answer? Also, does Israel know the exact identity of the Palestinian notables who are slated to participate in the joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation? If Israel does not know, how can it be sure that the PLO will not enter the process?

[Levi] First, this is a basic rule in the U.S. understanding and assurances vis-a-vis Israel; it is clear to everyone that three categories will serve as the criteria for the participation of the representation of the Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip: First, no representative from Jerusalem. Second, no PLO. Third, no representative of the Palestinian diaspora. All these criteria will be implemented in the names. The issues that remain to be resolved are Israel's desire that the bilateral talks be held in the region, alternately in Israel and in the Arab countries, in each respective country, so as to create relations of mutual trust that could serve as milestones toward peace. This matter is being handled, and I believe it will be resolved.

[Israel Television's Eli Nisan] In your talks with the Soviet foreign minister, did you ask him to use his influence on al-Asad to participate in the talks on regional issues?

[Levi] What I told him is that obviously we hope he will use his influence since we are facing a test, a real historic test, which is perhaps opening up a new era. We therefore hope that he will be able to help bring peace to this region, as Israel expects, and that peace will serve the entire region and will perhaps once and for all end the terrible arms race to which everything is enslaved. He will do what is necessary. I am sure that the talks between us, the candid, frank, and pointed talks, will also bring about the necessary results in his upcoming meetings in the region.

[Qol Yisra'el's Jack Katzenell] Mr. Levi, although Secretary Baker did not present the list of Palestinians to you and the prime minister today, will you recommend to the cabinet on Sunday to say yes to Baker, to ratify the conditions, and for Israel to go to the conference?

[Levi] First, we are not going unprepared, and I said what the criteria are which must be taken into account when deciding on those names. There is an explicit and

categorical commitment that will be fulfilled. In reference to the cabinet, we labored and worked out those positions until coming to the present moment—we are a democracy—and we will bring those agreements to the cabinet. It is obvious that the team that worked will recommend that the government endorse these conclusions. This is not a yes to Baker. This is Israel's initiative. It faced a lot of obstacles and there was a time when it was about to be changed completely. It is a pity to go into all those things again. Israel has now taken a step forward and aspires to promote its initiative. I hope that all the parties will be guided by wisdom and not raise obstacles, will maintain what was agreed upon, will implement the assurances—which are the foundations for this process—and will begin with raised heads and certainty in our hearts because we know how to insist on what is vital to Israel. We will have a great deal of work, quite a difficult period in which we will have to work. Nothing will be easy, but Israel is determined to promote its initiative after agreeing on those things with the secretary of state.

[Israel Television's Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you believe that the government will remain united and stable after it approves Israel's participation in the regional conference?

[Levi] I cannot speak for others. I listened today to the announcements by the various factions, and I did not get the impression that they are leaving the government. I believe I cannot get involved in their considerations, but they would be mistaken to say that they are resigning after Israel has stood adamant on the principles that appear in the government's guidelines and now that we are at the threshold of these talks. What is the alternative, what kind of message or hope are they giving the people? Therefore, in my view we have a national duty to stay united and take action to achieve the maximum for Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is your reaction to the fact that Syria refuses to participate in multilateral talks with us or even to sign a peace treaty with us or to shake your hand?

[Levi] I have already referred to the handshake. On the peace treaty, there is no alternative but a contractual peace agreement: Israel insists on this and the United States is committed to this in writing. In reference to discussions in multilateral committees on development, economic cooperation, promoting projects for the welfare of all the peoples of the region, at least I hope that Syria will reconsider its position if it does not want to remain isolated and not benefit from the ideas and projects many countries in Europe and the United States are prepared to fund. Today we were told that Japan is also prepared to finance them in accordance with what the Japanese foreign minister said here during his visit. If Syria is in such a good economic situation and does not wish to benefit from that cooperation and its fruit, then it might only lose out. I hope that it will reconsider and decide that it should join the process for its own good. I hope it will contribute—if there are no problems, and if everybody sees eye to eye—as Jordan said, as Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said, and as Kuwait and the Gulf states said, and according to Baker, Egypt will also participate. If Syria then remains on its own, that is its own affair.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will Israel change its behavior, its moves in the conference and the discussions later on if Syria does not participate in those discussions? Will Israel perhaps wish to boycott some other part of the discussions?

[Levi] I do not wish to say anything about what Israel will do in the conference. It will depend on developments. Israel knows precisely what it wants, and has worked out and achieved the constraints needed to maintain its interests. Therefore, everything done there will be weighed properly. We are facing the main discussion: a peace treaty with full diplomatic relations achieved through direct negotiations, without preconditions.

[Unnamed correspondent] Does Israel intend to stop settlement?

[Levi] Israel accepted no demands and opposes any preconditions.

Shamir on Conference

TA1810155991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1345 GMT 18 Oct 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Shamir at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "a short while ago"—recorded in progress]

[Text] [Shamir] ...Israel will participate in the peace process when it is held, and if it is held. We can never reach peace without holding negotiations, and this is the first time we have had the opportunity to conduct the kind of negotiations we have always wanted: direct, face-to-face negotiations without any preconditions with our Arab neighbors. I do not know what the results of these negotiations will be. At any rate, it will constitute the beginning of such a process.

[Israel Television political correspondent Gadi Sukenik] So Israel will actually be negotiating with representatives of the PLO, if not directly, then indirectly.

[Shamir] I do not think so. We explicitly stated that we shall not hold negotiations with the PLO, neither directly nor indirectly. That is exactly what we will do.

[Sukenik] But the PLO will be behind the scenes, and that is clear to everybody.

[Shamir] It will be somewhere in the world. To my regret, we cannot banish this organization from the face of the earth, so it will be somewhere.

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, do you and Ministers Levi and Arens,

who participated with you in yesterday's and today's talks, accept Baker's promise that the Palestinians in the delegation, whose names you were not given, meet our requirements and do not belong to the PLO or come from East Jerusalem, and that we will not be surprised when we sit down at the negotiating table?

[Shamir] Mr. Baker announced that he received a list of Palestinians which basically comply with the demands we made. I generally believe the secretary of state, but as official representatives of the state this cannot satisfy us, and we will find ways to examine it.

[Golan] How can we examine it if we do not receive the list?

[Shamir] Just count on us. I will make my recommendation to the government in accordance with all the information that we have, and after I analyze the situation with all its attendant advantages and drawbacks, I think I will recommend that the government choose this option, because I see no better alternative.

[IDF Radio political correspondent Natan Gutman] Mr. Shamir, do you intend to bring the issue to a vote already at next Sunday's cabinet session, and what explanation will you give the right-wing ministers who are already saying that they oppose the move?

[Shamir] Well, first of all, I will give the same explanations to the right-wing ministers and the rest of the ministers. I will present the matter to the cabinet but I do not know yet whether it will be on Sunday or not; I will decide by tomorrow evening.

[Sukenik] Would you say that the Syrian position regarding the multilateral negotiations is still disappointing?

[Shamir] The Syrian position is completely negative and does not promise success; we have decided to attend these negotiations anyway, however, and if the negotiations with Syria fail, it will be clear to everyone who will be responsible.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, what will Israel's reaction be if a demand is made to freeze settlements immediately at the opening of the conference as a sign of goodwill for continued talks?

[Shamir] Everyone is familiar with Israel's position. We will say no.

[Golan] Are you going to the conference without any qualms?

[Shamir] It is generally difficult to attend these kind of things with equanimity. Any such operation, whether it is a wartime operation or a move carried out in times of peace, has its risks. I would say that this kind of operation is perhaps less dangerous than a military operation, but there are still risks. We in Israel decided a long time ago that one can also take risks for peace.

[Sukenik] Sir, what would you say to a resident of Ari'el, the Qatif Bloc, or Qatzrin [settlements in the West Bank and Golan Heights] this evening? Someone who has followed developments and perhaps feels a bit worried?

[Shamir] Everybody has the right to be worried. I also have worries. However, to the degree that the future of the settlements you mentioned depends on us, on the representatives of Israel, they can feel calm and secure.

[Golan] During the course of this week, even before Baker arrived, you said that you could not promise a bed of roses. Do you expect long and arduous negotiations for months and years until we reach their culmination? Even peace agreements are not guaranteed in the end.

[Shamir] The process will be undoubtedly difficult, strewn with obstacles and long and winding. There may be various crises along the way but we must take the risk of taking this path because there is no other way.

Pankin Departs for Syria

TA1910052691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin left for Damascus yesterday.

Reports on Cabinet Vote Leading to Okay of Talks

Logistical Preparations

TA2010074191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The prime minister and the foreign minister will open today's cabinet meeting with a review of the talks with Baker. In addition, the two will acquaint the ministers with the invitation to the conference and with the letter of assurances they received last Friday afternoon.

After an opening by Shamir and Levi, each minister will be given an opportunity to speak. For that reason, the debate is expected to be particularly long; the voting is not expected to be held today.

Likud Minister Ari'el Sharon, Tehiya Minister Yuval Ne'eman, and Moledet Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi are expected to oppose the conference. Refa'el Eytan from Tzomet has not determined his stand; he will decide during the course of the debate. The cabinet will probably vote at a special meeting expected to be held on Wednesday [23 October] after Prime Minister Shamir's return from the European Parliament session in Strasbourg.

The invitation received by Shamir does not state that the talks are designed to achieve contractual peace, although the matter does feature in the letter of assurances Israel has received. Not all the clauses of the U.S. letter of

assurances are acceptable to Jerusalem, but no additional changes will be introduced. Baker refused to introduce a clause preventing the United States from expressing its stand on its interpretation of Resolution 242, and neither is there a specific statement that the 1967 borders are indefensible.

Preparations for the conference are under way in Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry will deal with the logistic preparations, as well as the coordination of multilateral talks, which are the third stage of negotiations. The Prime Minister's Office is in charge of bilateral talks. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is responsible for talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, is responsible for talks with the Syrian delegation. The talks with Lebanon will be handled by the Defense Ministry—presumably by Uri Lubrani. The Defense Ministry will also prepare position papers on territorial issues and on autonomy.

The Israeli delegation to the talks will be headed by Foreign Minister David Levi, and the delegation will be presumably made up of directors general and deputy directors general of his ministry, the Defense Ministry, and the Prime Minister's Office.

Interim Cabinet Report

TA2010102291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wants the debate about joining the Madrid conference to be concluded today, despite the fact that several ministers have suggested continuing the cabinet meeting next week, after the ministers have had a chance to study all the details pertaining to the conference. The prime minister said he wishes to end the debate today.

The invitation to the peace conference sent to Israel and its neighbors by the U.S. and Soviet presidents says that the Madrid conference aims to bring about true peace. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in the invitation, Bush and Gorbachev ask for replies by 1800 on Wednesday [23 October].

At the cabinet meeting, Minister Sharon expressed fierce objection to the conference, saying it is a mistake. He proposed recruiting international Jewry as an aid against U.S. pressures.

Minister Ze'evi demanded that the move be discontinued, threatening that the government would lose its majority in the Knesset. He also demanded that Prime Minister Shamir head the Israeli delegation to Madrid.

Minister Zvulun Hammer said in an interview with Qol Yisra'el this morning that the government is capable of joining the peace conference and of waging a successful struggle for its positions. We are not going to the conference with our hands tied behind our backs, believes Minister Hammer.

The cabinet meeting is continuing.

More on Cabinet Debate

TA2010120691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Minister Arye Der'i has just come out of the cabinet meeting; he is on his way to a funeral. Let us hear his opinion.

[Der'i, broadcast in progress] ...That is the view of all the ultra-Orthodox ministers.

[Golan] In favor of joining the conference?

[Der'i] Yes. I have not addressed the cabinet yet, because I have to go to a funeral. I will return, however. Our stand is clear: We favor going to the conference. I will have my say at the cabinet meeting, and I do not wish to express my views before that.

[Golan] What is the atmosphere at the meeting? Do you think the debate will end today?

[Der'i] Yes. The prime minister announced in advance that the debate will end today, and that the voting will also take place today. [passage omitted]

[Golan] [passage omitted] The onslaught against the Madrid conference was pursued by Minister Yuval Ne'eman. We are going to the same conference Shim'on Peres had conceived, he contended. The situation with the PLO is grotesque, he said; we are pretending not to be speaking with that organization, while in fact the PLO is inside. He promised that his party, Tehiya, will strive to bring about early elections and that at some stage it will secede from the government, along with the other right-wing parties. Ne'eman expressed the hope that Minister Sharon will leave along with the others.

At this very minute, we see Minister Sharon leaving the Prime Minister's Office and getting into his car. The meaning of this step is unclear. Minister Der'i was unable to tell us whether Minister Sharon intends to resign. I am trying to stop Minister Sharon's Volvo, but it is whisking by me. We will try to find out what happened.

The cabinet meeting is continuing, although various ministers have left for reasons of their own. [passage omitted]

Ministers opposing the conference were confronted by the supporters—among others, Ministers Moshe Qatzav and Roni Milo. There is serious danger that the talks will collapse, warns Minister Qatzav, who doubts that the United States is any longer an honest broker.

Minister Roni Milo is much more positive. Fortunately for us, he tells the other ministers, we are about to begin direct talks with the Arabs, who have agreed to direct

negotiations despite our message to the Syrians that we will not withdraw from the Golan Heights and despite the fact that we have offered only autonomy—not a withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—to the Palestinians. They are all, including Jordan, ready to enter direct negotiations with Israel, and there is therefore no room for the gloomy atmosphere and dark prophecies. There is a chance for a breakthrough on the road to peace.

Minister Refa'el Eytan demanded that the government hold a vote on every single name on the Palestinian list of delegates. We must have early elections, suggested Eytan. This position has popular support.

Foreign Minister David Levi has waived his right to address today's cabinet meeting. After Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir presented the situation, Defense Minister Moshe Arens took the floor. He said: There are people who doubt the Israeli representatives' ability to conduct negotiations and to insist on our demands without giving in to pressures. There is no room for such doubts. We can be certain that this government and its representatives will know how to present our positions in an appropriate manner. Arens added: The political process is a natural follow-up to the government's initiative of May 1989. The cabinet ministers must decide whether they wish to conduct negotiations with the neighboring countries and the Palestinians, and if the answer is affirmative, on what terms. The terms we have achieved, said the defense minister, are direct negotiations and not a coercive international conference, as the Arabs had demanded. Those negotiations will be with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation of Palestinian Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and not the PLO people that the Arabs had demanded. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Participation

TA2010143391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The cabinet meeting has just ended. This is the news from the Prime Minister's Office. The cabinet approves Israel's participation in the conference by 16 to 3 with one abstention.

Official Announcement

TA2010161791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1535 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from the Prime Minister's Office]

[Excerpts] We will now read out the official announcement by the Government of Israel in saying yes to the conference:

The prime minister presented to the government his recommendation to respond affirmatively to the appeal by the Presidents of the United States and the USSR to participate in the conference to start direct bilateral and multilateral negotiations on peace and bilateral and multilateral negotiations, which are to begin after the conference. Following an extensive debate the cabinet decided the following:

1. To empower the prime minister to respond affirmatively to the invitation by the Presidents of the United States and the USSR to Israel to participate in the conference to start direct bilateral and multilateral negotiations for peace and the bilateral and multilateral negotiations that will open afterward, subject to a settlement on the issue of Palestinian representation to the satisfaction of the government.

2. To empower the prime minister, in consultation with the deputy prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister, to decide on the Israeli delegations to the opening conference and the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

3. To note the announcement by the prime minister on the letter of assurances by the U.S. Administration and on the Israeli positions on the various issues linked to the process. Those positions will be presented to the United States and the USSR and the other elements in accordance with the need.

4. The prime minister will update the government on further developments according to need. [passage omitted]

Several remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the cabinet: Shamir said the only thing still unresolved is the Palestinian representation. We will insist on the principles that the PLO, Jerusalem residents, and people from outside the territories will not participate in the delegation. Shamir read out the two documents—the letter of assurances and the invitation. Among the details worth mentioning, the conference will not have coercive powers, and Israel opposes the reconvening of the conference. In reference to the issue of Palestinian representation, the interim stage will last five years while the negotiations for the permanent settlement will begin in the third year. The United States says in the letter of assurances that it supports the multisided conference and is committed to Israel's defense and to maintaining its qualitative edge.

The prime minister says: Israel would have been happier had the United States stated clearly its opposition to a return to the 1967 borders, as George Shultz said at the time. The present wording is: Israel has the right to secure and defensible borders after direct negotiations are conducted on them with our neighbors. The meaning is clear, the prime minister said: There is no coercion, everything will be decided in direct negotiations and through agreement. This is the summing up by the prime minister and foreign minister in two sentences. They say that Israel has achieved its eternal aim, direct negotiations with all the neighbors. If there is something we cannot accept then we will not agree to it. The very fact that we did not yield on certain positions is an achievement to be proud of, the prime minister summed up.

Sharon, Ne'eman, Ze'evi Oppose

TA2010145991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1433 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki by political correspondent Arye Golan, from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Minister Sciaki, the ministers who voted against Israel's participation in the Madrid conference—are they the ones we expected to do so?

[Sciaki] One can assume so, yes, that is exactly right.

[Golan] Ministers Sharon, Ne'eman, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Minister Moda'i?

[Sciaki] Moda'i had slight reservations, he accepted part of it and rejected part.

[Golan] What did the ministers whose opposition was rejected do?

[Sciaki] They expressed their position that there is no point in going to such a conference because the PLO will obviously be there, covertly or otherwise, and we should not expect a lot from such a conference. All the known positions were once again stated. There are concerns, fears, doubts. On the other hand, the majority, who voted as they did, believes that despite everything it is good for Israel to demonstrate to ourselves and to the world that its aspiration for peace is genuine, that it does not fear peace, and does not fear meeting with its worst enemies in the hope that sitting together without preconditions will permit us to discuss openly all the issues and will perhaps bring about a change. We are all aware that it is a special day. For the first time in 43 years during which the Arab states, except for Egypt, did not agree to sit with us, the Arab leaders—including Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—are prepared to sit with us around the table unconditionally. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Sir, did the ministers who voted against participation threaten to take any coalition moves, to disband the government, such things?

[Sciaki] No, we did not hear any threats, to the best of my knowledge. I was there almost all day. I did not hear any threats. They voted against, but nobody walked out and nobody threatened to resign, as far as I know.

Summary of Cabinet Voting

TA2010153091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The cabinet decided to go to the Madrid conference by 16 votes to three, with one abstention. The three who voted against are Ministers Ari'el Sharon, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Yuval Ne'eman. Finance Minister Moda'i proposed a different version for the resolution, but it was rejected. He made it clear to our correspondent Yo'el Nir that he supports going to the conference but that a clear goal is needed. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that before the vote, Minister Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet said that he supports going to Madrid although the United States cannot be called an honest broker. He said the Arabs' intentions have not changed and they still aspire to destroy Israel.

Ari'el Sharon reiterated his opposition to participation in the conference and brought as an example the fate of Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II. Sharon said we must not lend a hand in sacrificing Israel as the Western democracies sacrificed Czechoslovakia. Sharon criticized the ministers who fear being in the opposition, but said it is not the only alternative. If Israel's conditions as he suggested are not accepted, then the government must go to the people and ask for its vote of confidence because the Likud representatives were not elected on that platform. Sharon also complained that Israel did not act against the Palestinian representatives who conferred with PLO leaders and claimed that in contrast to Israeli announcements, negotiations are being conducted indirectly with that organization.

Our correspondent reports that, toward the end of the debate, Mr. Shamir was asked what will happen if the Palestinian delegation gets up and says: We are the PLO. The prime minister banged the table with his fist and said: Then we are not there.

Faysal al-Husayni welcomed the government's decision and expressed the hope that goodwill will also be shown later on by the sides to the negotiations. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that at a news conference in his home in East Jerusalem, al-Husayni said that the list of Palestinian representatives to the conference will not be made public.

This morning, Ghassan al-Khatib, Communist Party activist in the territories; and Zuhayra Kamal, head of the Palestinian Women's Labor Committees Federation, left for Jordan. It has been learned that there are differences between the communists and Faysal al-Husayni on the composition of the delegation, especially the number of communist representatives and on the decision-making process.

Ministers Comment on Cabinet Vote

TA2010151391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interviews with ministers by political correspondent Natan Gutman following cabinet's endorsement of decision to attend peace conference—live]

[Text] [Gutman] Transportation Minister Qatzav, you were among those who voted in support of going to the conference.

[Qatzav] Yes, I decided to vote in support of going to the talks.

[Gutman] Even though you had reservations?

[Qatzav] I certainly have reservations. No minister is completely satisfied with the move. There are definitely some drawbacks and some dangers. Nevertheless, in the final balance, I decided to vote in favor.

[Gutman] Are you happy that the government is going to attend the conference? Is there no danger that the government will split up in light of today's vote?

[Qatzav] No, I do not think so. Even Agriculture Minister Eytan [Tzomet] voted in favor of attending the Madrid conference, and I am confident that the government is not deviating from its basic guidelines or from the coalition's platform, so there is really no reason for the government to split up.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Qatzav. Now we will listen to Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, one of the opponents.

[Ze'evi] [words indistinct] talk about territories or about autonomy. Until then we do not see any reason to resign. On the contrary, there is good cause for us to remain in the government in order significantly to counterbalance the defeatist elements sitting at the cabinet table.

[Gutman] But they have an absolute majority, sir. You are four against 16. One can say that you are almost a discountable minority in the government.

[Ze'evi] We were three against 17. Only three—Minister Sharon voted, while I voted for myself and on behalf of Minister Yuval Ne'eman. That is three in all. Minister Moda'i came out with a very well-phrased statement which was not understood and therefore his amendment was not accepted. I, however, thought that the phrasing of his proposal was more successful.

[Gutman] Can you remain in the government with the decision that was just made to attend the conference?

[Ze'evi] I can definitely remain in the government as long as there is no talk about either territory or autonomy. When and if one of these subjects is broached, and I hope that they will not be discussed because I trust national elements in the government, whose statements carry some weight and whose word is tantamount to a commitment, to make sure that there will be no withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights nor from Jerusalem.

[Gutman] Then why oppose the process at all?

[Ze'evi] Because it constantly involves very great dangers. I have learned that preemptive treatment is much more effective than a late counterattack. An early counterattack is much better.

[Gutman] Minister Ze'evi, thank you very much. That was one of the opponents. Let me note that the other two ministers who voted against the proposal were Minister Yuval Ne'eman from the Tehiya and Minister Ari'el Sharon. Good day, Agriculture Minister Eytan, we are live on the air. We understand that you were undecided until the very last moment. What made you decide to vote in favor of the conference?

[Eytan] I found the explanations given by the prime minister regarding our behavior at this conference acceptable. Without attending the conference we will never know if the Arabs' intentions are sincere or not. Therefore, I voted in favor of attending the conference without deviating from the positions that were stated by the prime minister regarding Jerusalem, Judaea, and Samaria, the slogan of territories for peace, the Golan Heights, the resettlement of refugees. I believe that things will indeed be conducted in this way.

[Gutman] Will you, like the other right-wing ministers, threaten to resign when territorial issues are discussed?

[Eytan] I am not making threats. If there is any deviation from these principles we shall announce our future actions.

[Gutman] And right now you are convinced that as far as you are concerned there is nothing to worry about?

[Eytan] Yes.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Eytan from the Tzomet faction. Good day Minister Der'i. Were you one of the foremost and most enthusiastic supporters in the government of attending the conference?

[Der'i] No, I am one of the supporters. Sixteen ministers voted in support of the proposal and three against. I clearly stated my opinion. It is no secret that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] supports the peace moves. I said only today in the cabinet that today's vote was not over who was in favor of the conditions that were achieved or who wanted better conditions. That is a pretense and hypocrisy. These were the best conditions we could have gotten, and whoever voted against the proposal is simply against peace.

[Gutman] Do you mean that there are three ministers sitting in the government who are opposed to peace?

[Der'i] Either that or they are talking about a kind of peace that I do not know how to achieve. We got the best conditions. Actually, all the conditions placed by the Israeli Government were accepted. I do not understand all this moaning and despondency. We must be serious and prudent, but we must also walk in there standing tall, and that is what I said today. All our conditions were met: direct negotiations, no East Jerusalem Arabs, no Palestinian diaspora. I never dreamed that we would achieve this. All the Arab countries are participating in the talks without our having backed down on anything: not on territories for peace, not on Jerusalem, and we got what we wanted.

[Gutman] Can you continue sitting in the government with ministers that you say are opposed to peace?

[Der'i] They have the problem, not me.

[Gutman] Do you think that action should be taken against them?

[Der'i] I do not think so; they should make up their own minds, because those that voted against the cabinet's decision share the same responsibility as those who voted for it. They have to decide if they can live with it or not. Nobody can play the innocent from tomorrow morning and say that he voted against the proposal. That will not help, that is mere demagoguery. It does not matter who voted against the proposal; the cabinet made a majority decision and from now on all ministers share collective responsibility.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Der'i. Education Minister Zvulun Hammer from the National Religious Party [NRP] is here. You left the cabinet session in the middle to hold consultations at your party bureau and came back with a majority decision to back the government and support going to the conference. Does this reflect the position of all the NRP, including Knesset Member Hanan Porat, for example?

[Hammer] Yes. As you said, this decision was adopted with a large majority in the NRP bureau. What we sought was a decision not to be in fear of ourselves and to insist on our positions during the negotiations. We also, however, asked the prime minister to declare before the cabinet, which he indeed did, that we commit ourselves that the issue of our sovereignty in Jerusalem and in the Golan Heights, that there be no halt on settlements during the negotiations, the behavior and composition of the Palestinian delegation, and the autonomy for the residents of the territories and the permanent accords in the future—that all these issues, if and when they are raised in the conference, will first be discussed by the entire government. The prime minister declared that he is committed to this.

[Gutman] In other words, there is a commitment to raise any issue, any decision for a cabinet vote before it is decided in the conference.

[Hammer] Before it is even discussed. In other words, the very fact of its discussions as well as the nature of the debate, if there are any changes or interpretations of the issue. The prime minister added that this was the government's position and that we would insist on it. We, at any rate, were satisfied on the issue. It is better to avoid a confrontation with the people of Israel here and throughout the world on the very issue of entering negotiations—something we are interested in doing—and to count on our ability to stand on our positions regarding fundamental issues. This is what we decided.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Hammer.

Moda'i on 'Conditional Yes'

TA2010171691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good evening, Minister Moda'i.

[Moda'i] Good evening.

[Friedman] Let us first clarify the matter of the voting. We do not understand how you voted at the end of the session. Did you abstain or oppose the prime minister's proposal?

[Moda'i] No, no. It was very simple. The prime minister made a proposal that was in the most part acceptable to me. I asked to attach an amendment to its first clause. From the moment I proposed making an amendment, I could not vote for the prime minister's proposal, because one cannot vote for two proposals. I reserved my vote for my own proposal. Therefore, the prime minister's proposal was endorsed 16 against three, and my proposal was rejected by eight votes against two.

[Mardor] Did you really expect it to be endorsed, Minister Moda'i?

[Moda'i] I would like to tell you that I had received an agreement in principle. I do not want to speak on behalf of anyone, but perhaps we should talk about its essence and not about whether it was accepted or not. I suggested an amendment to the prime minister's proposal that would stipulate that the invitations sent by the Presidents define the purpose of the talks as achieving peace agreements between Israel and its neighbors. Why is this? Because the letter of assurances we got from Secretary of State Baker expressly stated that this was the purpose of the negotiations; however, this is missing from the Presidents' invitations. What does this mean? This means that the other parties, the Syrians, the Jordanians, did not agree that this would be the purpose of the meetings. Therefore, if this is not the purpose of the talks, then what is their goal? The invitation puts the goal as peace arrangements [hesderi shalom]. Peace arrangements are nothing. A peace agreement, like the one we signed at Camp David, has both formal and real significance. So everybody agreed with me, but the question was whether we still had time to change things, and the contention was, [changes thought]—and the prime minister even said today at the cabinet session that Israel would insist on this demand during the bilateral talks—that now it appears as an attempt to be evasive.

[Friedman] Mr. Moda'i, one of the other problematic issues is the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation. Did you receive any additional information today on this matter that may have allayed some of the cabinet's fears and led you to vote in favor of...

[Moda'i, interrupting] No, no. The decision that was submitted by the prime minister and approved by a great majority, and which I also support—aside from my proposed amendment—explicitly stated that the prime minister will bring the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the cabinet for its approval

before 1800 on Wednesday, which is the deadline for Israel to reply to the invitation sent by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev.

[Friedman] In other words, the affirmative response is still a conditional yes?

[Moda'i] Look, according to the proposal submitted by the prime minister it is definitely a conditional yes. Certainly. And I do not assume that Israel's yes be given until after we know the composition of the Palestinian representation within the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is a condition—unless someone already knows and accepts the composition of the delegation. I am not familiar with the composition of the delegation.

[Friedman] Were any additional decisions taken during today's cabinet session, beyond the decision in principle to attend the conference? There are so many problems set to crop up.

[Moda'i] Three very clear decisions were made. First, to authorize the prime minister—and this will undoubtedly be published by the government—to give a positive response to the Presidents' invitation. Second, the prime minister will report on the names of the members of the Palestinian representation in the Jordanian delegation. Third, the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister will compose the delegations to the opening conference and to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Fourth, the prime minister will report to the cabinet on the progress of the negotiations when this is required. This was the prime minister's proposal, which was endorsed by a large majority.

[Friedman] Mr. Moda'i, do you think Israel will discuss territorial arrangements with its neighbors in the forthcoming negotiations?

[Moda'i] I have no doubt whatsoever that our neighbors are there only for that purpose, or perhaps almost only for that purpose, and that they will raise the issue. Israel's reply is totally clear. The Golan Heights are not negotiable; Jerusalem, as the capital of Israel, is not open for negotiations; and Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are not up for negotiation as far as a geographical solution is concerned, or in other words a full or partial Palestinian state. The only thing that comes into consideration is the two-stage process of establishing autonomy according to the Camp David accords and according to the letter of assurances we received from the secretary of state.

[Friedman] Mr. Moda'i, I would like a short answer to a difficult question. Are we going to the conference so as not to appear as the party that torpedoed the peace process, or are we going to reach an arrangement with our neighbors?

[Moda'i] That is not up to us and I suggest we stop needling ourselves. If our neighbors only came to get territory, they will go back empty-handed. If they came to achieve a peace arrangement and to sign peace agreements with the State of Israel, there is a chance that we may be able to reach some kind of agreements with them that are amenable to both sides.

[Friedman] Thank you, Minister Moda'i.

Shamir Departs for Strasbourg; on Conference

TA2110133891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1240 GMT 21 Oct 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with foreign and domestic reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to Shamir's departure for Strasbourg—live]

[Text] [Shamir] Good day to you, ladies and gentlemen. I am leaving now for Strasbourg for a meeting with European Parliament members, who invited me to deliver a speech on the situation in the Middle East. In Strassbourg we will meet with several groups of parliament members, other personages, and a group of Jewish people. We will explain to the European public the situation in Israel and the Middle East, as well as the different positions on the eve of the conference in Madrid next week.

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, will the Hizballah terrorist attack against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Lebanon and the anticipation of increased terrorist activity damage the chances for the peace conference? Is our ability to react limited now, due to the upcoming Madrid conference?

[Shamir] We have not limited ourselves, nor do we feel any limitations that will prevent us from striking at the Hizballah or any other terrorists who attack our soldiers.

[IDF Radio political correspondent Natan Gutman] Mr. Shamir, do you intend to travel to the international conference if King Husayn and President Mubarak do so?

[Shamir] I do not know yet. We will decide in the coming days.

[Gutman] Are you considering the possibility of going to the conference to attend it yourself if your counterparts in the Arab world do so?

[Shamir] It is possible. We must consider all the possibilities. I have said that no decision has been made yet.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, do the Tehiya movement's decision to withdraw from the government and Minister Yuval Ne'eman's subsequent decision to resign from the government increase the possibility of a national unity government? We heard Yitzhaq Rabin hinting at that.

[Shamir] I have not heard hints of that. I do not see any danger to the existence of the government at the moment.

[Gutman] Mr. Shamir, is there truth to reports that you and the foreign minister disagree about the composition of the Israeli delegation to the conference?

[Shamir] We have not yet discussed the composition of the delegation. We shall do so in the coming days. Since there has been no discussion, there can be no disagreements.

[Golan] Tehiya has already withdrawn from the government because of the upcoming conference, and Tzomet and Moledet have announced that they will follow suit immediately upon the start of deliberations in which the territories will be discussed. How will you, as prime minister, be able to continue to make decisions in a government that may not enjoy a majority?

[Shamir] When such a situation arises, we will discuss and consider it. As I have just said, I do not see a danger to the existence of the government at the moment.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, concerning the situation within the Likud, within the government—Minister Sharon called on you and on Ministers Levi and Arens, as the men who led the move for peace, to resign. Why do you not dismiss him when he compares you to Benes, the person during whose leadership in Czechoslovakia that country fell to pieces?

[Shamir] The comparison to Benes does me honor. Benes was an eminent personage. He was one of the best and wisest diplomats in Europe at the time. He did not betray his people. He was faithful to them, but did not in the end succeed, due to Europe's position and the position of West European countries in particular. As for my moves, I am considering them according to the situation. I am doing what is necessary, in my opinion.

[Gutman] Mr. Prime Minister, we hear daily from additional Arab parties who will participate in the conference about the possibility that they will not participate in the multilateral talks. Will this not make things more difficult for Israel in the preceding bilateral talks?

[Shamir] Look, the large number of the Arab countries participating in the conference will not change Israel's positions. Israel is one, and all the rest are many. Israel is one against all. The conflict is between Israel and the Arab world. Israel is loyal to its positions; it will insist on its own and defend its interests.

[Gutman] It was made known today that the members of the Palestinians' advisory council, some of whom are PLO people, will also receive invitations to the conference. Is this compatible with the agreements we reached with the United States?

[Shamir] Nobody has discussed this with us, nor did we agree to such a thing. This surprises us.

Ministers, Politicians on Approval of Talks

Sharon: 'Likely To Lead to War'

TA1810191491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] In Oxford, England, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon reacted to Shamir's agreement to attend peace talks by saying it was likely to lead to war rather than peace. Israel, he said, had been forced into its participation in the peace conference by the United States. Asked by Qol London correspondent, Jerry Lewis, whether he would resign, Sharon answered that he would not and would instead fight from within the government. Sharon is in England to address the Oxford Union on the opening of a Lubavich center. He confirmed he intends to fly back to Israel in time for Sunday's cabinet meeting.

Repetition of Sudetenland

TA1910115191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in Oxford, England, by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Text] [Talmor] Shalom, Mr. Sharon, and good morning.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Talmor] Why were you not here when it was decided to attend the peace conference?

[Sharon] I will be there, and of course I have worked until now, explaining my position to the prime minister very clearly. The path we are treading involves totalitarian Arab regimes with which we are called upon to hold discussions. Yet their hatred toward Israel, their mad rush for more weapons, and the hostility of the incumbent U.S. Administration toward Israel will all bring a calamity upon us unless we stop now, smack on the edge of the abyss.

[Talmor] Do you think, from where you are in England, that you will be able to prevent the conference from taking place at the last minute?

[Sharon] I think that the whole way we have pursued matters thus far has been wrong, that the whole direction is erroneous, and that it is necessary to reach talks with the Arabs in a totally different manner, to which I have pointed many times. But even where the opinion of the cabinet, or the prime minister, or the team that dealt with these deliberations so far is concerned, it is still possible to halt, if Israel firmly insists on a number of issues. Of course, what is happening is that the public is again being deliberately duped. It is necessary to understand that the two honorable foreign ministers of the two world superpowers would not have announced a date and venue had they not obtained earlier agreement to this. This, in fact, is a repeat of what happened not long ago, when an agreement was reached during President

Bush's visit to Moscow, even before we even received answers to the requests we submitted. Here is a deliberate campaign to numb the public and portray things as though there were actually no alternative, no better possibility.

[Talmor] So what would you suggest?

[Sharon] Since we have only a few days, there is no choice but to accept the harsh ruling.

[Talmor] What do you plan to do in a bid to prevent the conference from convening and halt this entire process at the last minute?

[Sharon] I have no intention of standing in the way of a peace process. I favor a peace process, but I want it only if it leads us to peace, not war. What is actually happening now is a tragic recapitulation of what happened in Europe more than 50 years ago, when the Western democracies sacrificed Czechoslovakia in a gesture of conciliation toward Adolf Hitler. This is precisely what is taking place now. The price then was paid by the entire Western world, but more so by the Jewish people, one-third of whom were exterminated. Czechoslovakia was then asked to give up the Sudetenland, and what Judaea and Samaria are to us is what the Sudetenland was for Czechoslovakia. The same process is repeating itself.

[Talmor] Will you participate in tomorrow's cabinet session, which may vote on a final yes to Baker?

[Sharon] I will participate in the cabinet session and will suggest, despite the mistaken path that the team conducting the negotiations has trod thus far, that certain things be said and that Israel firmly insist that the goal of the conference be to obtain signed peace treaties between Israel and the Arab countries participating in it; that it be stipulated clearly that united Jerusalem under full Israeli sovereignty will not be subject to any future negotiations and that no Palestinian Arab state will be set up west of the Jordan River; and that it be demanded that if the Palestinian delegation identifies itself with the PLO in any fashion—one should see what is being shown here in Britain, where Israel is being portrayed in a totally different light; people explain the next stages to the finest detail; only at home is there a deliberate attempt to knock the public unconscious—Israel will somehow leave the conference, together with the U.S. delegation. Moreover, all the earlier commitments should be honored as well. This can still be achieved by this method.

But there is also another alternative, and it is actually what should have happened. I have often been asked whether, if my opinion is not accepted, I will resign. I would like to say that I am not the one who should resign; those who should and must resign are the people responsible for the new situation. They must resign. The people who have led Israel in this erroneous way and are continuing to lull the public in the face of the horrible dangers Israel is facing, having shown no power to stand up to others—and in fact, everyone knows that so far no real pressure has been applied to Israel apart from psychological pressure; I believe we are still very far from being hanged yet and that it is possible to stand up much more firmly—those who failed simply ought to get up and resign. Naturally this....

[Talmor, interrupting] Do you mean Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Sharon] I think I expressed myself very clearly. These negotiations were conducted without bringing the entire cabinet into the picture. The reports provided the cabinet plenum or the Inner Cabinet were minimal and always too late. The team that conducted these negotiations must resign. Of course, this will result in the resignation of the entire cabinet, as is the practice here, and then there will be elections, a new leadership will emerge; one that I hope will be able to stand up to what the current leadership has not.

[Talmor] If Yitzhaq Shamir does not resign, will you remain in the government and assume collective responsibility, as is customary, for this process in the way it is being conducted?

[Sharon] I have proved before that I am not afraid of resigning. When the government was on the edge of the cliff more than 18 months ago I resigned, generating a process that ultimately led to the establishment of another government. I have already shown that I am not afraid of leaving and that I am not glued to my cabinet seat.

[Talmor] If the prime minister ignores your call to resign, will you still rely on the right-wing parties, which for the moment are not planning to bolt the coalition?

[Sharon] My past experience has taught me that one can only rely on oneself. I appeal to no one. What I do is to explain the gravity of the situation. I know full well, and I regret that in the past three or four years I have also seen, that everything I warned about unfortunately came true. I think that as he did more than 18 months ago, when he stopped short of the abyss, the prime minister can still pull the reins and assume his historic responsibility by making what I admit is a very daring and difficult decision, in light of the mistakes so far, to discontinue this ruinous process—because once we enter into it the prime minister will no longer be able to halt. The only time to stop is now, at the very last minute. If he does so, just as I gave him all possible help when he stopped on the edge of the precipice last time, he will get all possible help from me throughout this tough struggle, one for our independence and life in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Talmor] Finally, Mr. Sharon, how do you expect the declaration by Beni Begin this week to influence your chance of being elected the Likud's candidate for prime minister?

[Sharon] I do not deal with frivolous questions when the situation is so serious.

[Talmor] Ari'el Sharon, on the line from Britain, thank you very much. Shalom.

[Sharon] A very good Sabbath to you, too.

Shamir Aide Responds

TA1910125891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, has said in reaction to Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon's call for the prime minister to resign that this is not the first time that Sharon has chosen such a style. Sharon will be able to express his views tomorrow during the cabinet discussion, Ahime'ir said. [passage omitted]

Levi on Approval; Peace Now Statement

TA2010175291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said in the cabinet meeting that no previous government secured U.S. guarantees which became ironclad political assets while the Arab noes disappeared one after the other. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Levi, in his summing-up in the cabinet session, added that the fact that the ministers are backing the negotiating team proves how unfounded and pretentious was the opponents' claim that they represent the government.

Peace Now praises the Israeli Government for its decision to attend the peace conference in Madrid. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the movement expressed the hope that the Israeli Government will regard the conference as a historic opportunity for peace.

Arens on Conference, Syrian Stand

TA1910104291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Text] [Talmor] Shalom, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Shalom and good morning.

[Talmor] Could anything torpedo the Madrid conference at the last moment?

[Arens] It is hard to anticipate such things, and there are a number of partners in this business, each of whom could throw in a monkey wrench, but there are still two issues that I would say still cloud the conference. The first, as everyone knows, is the composition of the Palestinian delegation, or to be more precise the Palestinian component of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—an issue that has not yet been clarified or accepted. That is why it is still unclear whether the demands and criteria stipulated and agreed upon have indeed been met. The second thing, which came as a surprise and disappointment to us, is the Syrian announcement that it is not prepared to participate in the deliberations on regional matters.

[Talmor] I gather from your remarks that Israel may, at the last minute, say no to the conference?

[Arens] Look, I would not like to put it that way. I think that at present our assumption is that we are going to the conference and the issue will be discussed at the cabinet tomorrow. Since you have asked me whether any issues remain unresolved, however, as I see it these are the issues that are still unresolved.

[Talmor] Did you try to insist, in your talks with Baker, on the name list? Why did he conceal it from us?

[Arens] He did not conceal it; to the best of my knowledge the list has not yet been submitted. Still, we had no reason to insist on anything with Baker. The criteria for the composition of the Palestinian component of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation were agreed upon right from the outset of the talks on the shape of that conference—namely that it will not include PLO members, people from what they term the diaspora, or residents of Jerusalem.

[Talmor] Do you not fear surprises, once that delegation shows up for the conference?

[Arens] I am not afraid of this. I am convinced that PLO members will make every effort to wend their way into the conference. It is clear to me that they are totally displeased with the fact that they have been left on the sidelines. Yet there is an agreement that there will be no room here for such acts or for lies. I presume that everyone will abide by this agreement.

[Talmor] If not, will that impede Israel's participation in the conference at the last minute?

[Arens] Not only Israel's participation, I think it will affect the participation of everyone.

[Talmor] You mentioned Syria's latest position, with which Israel disagrees right now. Is there any chance that the Soviet foreign minister might change that stand?

[Arens] First of all, it is not only that Israel disagrees with this stand; Mr. Baker also disagrees with it, and in fact it conflicts with the agreements and rules that have been established for this conference—that bilateral discussions will be held between the countries and that parallel deliberations on regional issues will take place. Now the Syrians have decided that they are not prepared to come to the conference to discuss regional matters. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Baker tried to persuade the Syrians when he was in Damascus a few days ago, but he evidently failed. I cannot speak for Mr. Pankin; he may also give it a try.

[Talmor] What if he does not succeed? Can you say that this will not prevent Israel from participating?

[Arens] I would not like to state things firmly here. This definitely constitutes a change, and it also points to the Syrians' intentions. We will have to address that.

[Talmor] So let us try another possibility. Suppose the three right-wing parties withdraw from the government in the next two weeks, turning it into an interim government by force of events. Will that allow Israel to participate in the conference?

[Arens] First of all, the government will become an interim government only if a no-confidence motion in the Knesset wins a majority. I still cannot see this happening. Besides, I do not believe that this scenario is very likely. First of all, we will have to wait and see whether the coalition partners want to withdraw from it—which is another thing I am not sure about—and even if they do, it is not at all clear that there will be a majority in the Knesset to vote no confidence in the government.

[Talmor] From all you have just said, Mr. Arens, I gather that Israel will at least participate in the opening ceremony. In fact, there is no reason for Israel not to participate in it.

[Arens] Look, I do not wish to tell you this with complete certainty before the cabinet has decided on the matter. I have furthermore outlined to you some of the questions that still hover in the air. But the way things stand now, I believe we are going in that direction; it is where we have wanted to go and for which we have held endless negotiations and insisted on matters that to us seemed important. As things look now, with the exception of the question marks I identified, it seems to me that the principles and guidelines we have discussed and that have been agreed upon will indeed form the basis for this conference.

[Talmor] Are you pleased with the U.S. letter of assurances or the text of the invitation to the conference?

[Arens] If I had formulated the invitation, I would have phrased it differently.

[Talmor] What exactly is it that bothers you?

[Arens] If I had formulated the letter of assurances, I would have phrased that differently, too.

[Talmor] What do they not include?

[Arens] When I saw the letter of assurances, I thought that perhaps Israel would be better off without it.

[Talmor] Why?

[Arens] Look, it is not surprising that Washington's view of the assurances, which are in fact fundamentals in Israeli-U.S. relations and the Middle East peace policy as we see it, is not the same as ours. We would like the United States to state explicitly that it disagrees with a return to the 1967 borders and that it recognizes united Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital. I assume there is quite a long list here which you, too, could have mentioned. Still, this does not mean that the U.S. President is prepared to sign it.

[Talmor] If these principles are so important, why did you buckle under? Why did you drop your insistence on these principles?

[Arens] The way you phrased your question implies that you think we should have announced that we are not going to the conference. I disagree with that, and I generally do not think that our going to negotiations with our neighbors should be made conditional upon receipt of some U.S. assurances or others. After all, it is in our interest to conduct negotiations and reach peace with our neighbors. If, in parallel, it were possible to receive from the U.S. Administration pledges on issues that are important to us, so much the better, but it seems to me that it is totally unreasonable to say that we are not prepared to negotiate with a neighboring country because the United States has refused to give us assurances in exactly the formulation we want.

[Talmor] Cabinet ministers, including Likud members, have dubbed this conference a trap and a noose around Israel's neck. Deep in your heart, Mr. Arens, are you not afraid that this indeed is what Israel will be facing in this conference?

[Arens] Look, I think that those who use these terms to describe the conference simply have no faith in our ability to negotiate wisely and do not trust us to insist on things that are important to us. I must say that I do not belong to that camp. I am fully confident that we can negotiate and stand firm on our demands. It is not at all clear whether these negotiations will lead to understandings. If the other side is not prepared to accept issues in accordance with the principles and rules that we regard as important for Israel's security, then in the end there will be no agreement. But I see no reason for anyone to doubt our ability to withstand such negotiations or insist on our views, and on that basis conclude that it would be best if we did not go to that conference. Does this make any sense at all?

[Talmor] Perhaps these people fear your inability to stand up to U.S.-Soviet pressure.

[Arens] That may be. As I told you, there seems to be here an assessment that we lack the ability to weather pressure, that we are incapable of insisting on our demands. As I told you, I do not count myself among those people. I think that in the negotiations that ultimately yielded the invitation to the conference, the government proved its ability to stand its own ground. In fact, one might conclude that if we do not trust ourselves, we cannot negotiate with our neighbors, but where would this line of thinking lead?

[Talmor] Now, as the process actually kicks off, how long do you think it will take before we reach peace agreements with the Arab countries, if we reach them at all?

[Arens] It is very difficult to predict, and as I told you it is not at all clear that we will reach such agreements. I sometimes sense that people intimate that launching negotiations automatically implies agreements. This is not so. It is possible to start negotiations only to find out that the gaps are too wide and an agreement is impossible. I would like to hope that we will reach agreements, and for our part we will certainly make every effort to reach them, though I am sure this will not be an easy or brief process. I will not presume to give you an estimate on how long it might take.

[Talmor] Months? Years?

[Arens] It is hard to tell. Look, for 43 years we have been extending our hand in our offer of peace to the neighboring countries, inviting them to negotiations. It took 30 years for the Egyptians to come, but since then 13 years have passed and the other countries have still not come. Now they are finally coming, so let us wait and see.

[Talmor] Finally, Mr. Arens, I cannot avoid the issue of internal Likud politics. Beni Begin's announcement that he will run for the Likud's nomination for prime minister was termed this week as a stab in Arens' back. What do you feel about this declaration by Begin?

[Arens] I do not feel any knife, either in the back or in the chest.

[Talmor] Do you plan in the future to compete for the Likud's nomination for prime minister?

[Arens] If I decide to do so, it will not remain a secret.

[Talmor] How do you assess your chances in view of Begin's announcement?

[Arens] There is no point assessing my chances before I announce that I am interested in running.

[Talmor] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you very much and a good Sabbath to you.

[Arens] A good Sabbath to you too.

Meridor Supports Peace Conference

TA1910124491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Dalya Ya'iri—live]

[Excerpt] [Ya'iri] Good morning and a good Sabbath to you. This was a very eventful week in terms of issues pertaining to your ministry: Ya'ir Levi [who faces the lifting of parliamentary immunity to face charges of embezzlement], the ongoing Der'i investigation [on similar charges], Pli'a Albeck [legal adviser who issued a controversial guideline on damages claims against Israel by an Arab whose wife was killed in an intifadah riot], the settlers [in Meyuhas House in Silwan], and the issue of whether or not the death penalty should be legalized. Naturally, though, it is impossible at this time to ignore the political issue. Tomorrow the cabinet will hold a meeting at which Shamir and Levi will present Israel's acceptance of the conference. What is your stand on the political process and the conference?

[Meridor] I hope that tomorrow, after it hears the proposal that was agreed upon yesterday, the cabinet will support the prime minister and that we will launch what I believe will be a new chapter in the Middle East peace process. Let there be no mistake, and no one is deluding himself about it: This will be a long, tough process, and we will not always enjoy world sympathy. Very often we will find ourselves almost alone and will have to defend positions that are truly vital for us to guarantee our ability to protect ourselves in the future. Still, I think this is an important process, one for which we have yearned many years. We are embarking on negotiations with Arab countries: Syria, Jordan—a Jordanian- Palestinian delegation—and Lebanon, without preconditions. We will sit down with them with the a priori agreement that the discussion of the future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will take place in the second stage—just as stipulated in the Camp David accords—namely that withdrawal or sovereignty or a Palestinian state will not be discussed at this stage but that instead an arrangement will be reached for autonomy, a five-year self-rule, and only later will the other matters be discussed.

It seems to me that to get to this point without giving up any matter or principle in advance is a major achievement, the outcome of a firm Israeli policy that has sometimes angered the whole world but has nevertheless been firm enough, as well as readiness to show flexibility on matters of secondary importance. One must also remember that the world has changed and that these changes must have affected the Arabs' readiness to alter their stance and come and talk.

[Ya'iri] Flexibility was also required vis-a-vis the right-wing parties at home, which will no doubt express extremist positions tomorrow.

[Meridor] This government was established on the basis of the Camp David accords, the May 1989 peace initiative, and the desire to promote peace while preserving our principles. In other words, not peace at all costs, not peace above any other interest, but peace as a central interest and goal. The parties that joined the government all knew what it was founded on. I hope they will find a way to continue to serve in the government. In any case, there is no doubt that the path we will tread will not be influenced by any coalition issue; it will only be influenced by the matter at hand—the peace process as we in the Likud, the main element in the cabinet, see it.

[Ya'iri] A propos Camp David: We all remember the very central role played by Justice Aharon Baraq, the attorney general then. Which legal adviser will go to the talks in Madrid this time?

[Meridor] I have not yet thought about Aharon Baraq's successor in this process. Maybe processes do not always have to mirror earlier ones exactly. The conference will

begin with one or two days of declarations and speeches—this is how I understand it. This will be on the level of foreign ministers and with the participation of the Presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union, after which working teams will meet. The cabinet will probably decide on the membership of these committees, and I would not like to comment on their level right now. They will have to deal with the various issues in different working committees: Israel and Syria, Israel and Lebanon, Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The multilateral discussions will deal with such issues as water, demilitarization, and so on. I hope these, too, will take place. All these discussions will require several teams and coordination. I can say that great preparations—a very complex and thorough job—have been conducted here over the past few months in anticipation of these negotiations. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on Arab Work Against Talks

TA1910204691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Good evening, Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Sukenik] Will the peace conference opening lead after four days from ceremonies to direct negotiations on peace with each of our neighbors?

[Netanyahu] That is supposed to be what will happen and that is what we agreed to. We want to reach direct negotiations with the Arab states. This evening I have received worrying signs that the Arabs will try to torpedo them and make the entire process barren of substance. If that happens Israel must walk out of the conference, and it will leave.

[Sukenik] How will they make it barren? What is the Arab intention, as far as you know?

[Netanyahu] I will not deal with details, but will only say one thing: We agreed to this process to end the taboo of almost a jubilee of the Arab refusal to sit with us in direct negotiations. If the Arabs try in the interim period between the ceremonial opening and the gathering for bilateral negotiations—which is supposed to be immediate and without preconditions—to present preconditions, for instance a settlement freeze, or other things, then Israel will walk out of the conference.

[Sukenik] Has the Israeli leadership tried all the best possible opening positions for that conference?

[Netanyahu] I believe we could have done many things we did not do. I believe we should have prepared international opinion to oppose the pressures that were and doubtless will still be applied. I regret that a series of recommendations I presented were not accepted, but it is still not too late.

[Sukenik] Not accepted by whom? Shamir, Levi?

[Netanyahu] They were not accepted. I still belong to the system. I do not criticize the system from within. I voiced my criticism and said what should be said and to whom, but it is still not too late. We should concentrate on the main issues, not on people but on the basic approach Israel should adopt. We are entering negotiations which contain big risks and also a chance for a certain achievement, if we manage to get to bilateral negotiations. In my view, perhaps the main key is our battle for world opinion, especially U.S. public opinion, and that calls for a series of actions. I hope that this time we will do what we have to do.

[Sukenik] You said mistakes were made. The question is whether the Israeli Government in its current composition and under this political leadership is capable of withstanding the pressures.

[Netanyahu] I believe we can withstand the pressures. I have no doubt that the pressures can be pushed off. I am never frightened by pressures, not even public opinion pressures, but I must tell you something. We can of course paint this entire process in pink pastel colors as though everything was just rosy and euphoric. There are perhaps those who do that; I do not.

[Sukenik] Are you hinting about the foreign minister?

[Netanyahu] Once again, I am not talking about a certain person, but an approach. Our approach in entering this process is to insist on the main issues, what we want to achieve, and to reject what we want to avoid or what they try to pressure us to do. If we approach it in a realistic way, then we will be able to deal with the reality. That is the key for any political move.

[Sukenik] Since we are discussing reality, then in fact these negotiations, after the opening conference and the ceremonies, will be territories for peace. We will want peace, the Arabs will want territories, and perhaps will also give back peace.

[Netanyahu] That is precisely the focus of the dispute; therefore, we must recruit all the forces for our side.

[Sukenik] Will it be peace or territories? How will it work out?

[Netanyahu] It can be peace with territories, and there is no reason to say that we have to be shoved out of the few remaining territories we still have in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, from which we were attacked. We will insist on that, explain it, and I believe that in the final analysis we will also be able to achieve it on condition that we are united from within and do not begin to divide our forces. This moment calls for internal unity to face a joint target.

[Sukenik] Are you referring to Ari'el Sharon's call from London to Shamir and his colleagues in the leadership to resign?

[Netanyahu] I am referring to all those challenging the Likud leadership at this moment. We are now entering one of the most difficult political negotiations Israel has known. I believe that what we need now is not to deal with replacing the leadership, not through calls by this side or that side. I believe that what we must do is, of course, to remain united in order to face the effort together. I will, however, tell you something else. If for some reason somebody in some way will try to push the recognized Likud leadership aside and believes that only one or two candidates remain, then I can tell you that there will not be just a single candidate.

[Sukenik] You were referring to Beni Begin, but we have to end here. Thank you.

[Netanyahu] I was referring to all the challenges. This is not the time to deal with that and I will not deal with it anymore.

Ben-Aharon on Syria, Tests for Arabs

TA2010180491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1606 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Tzvi Lidar, on the "Six After Six" program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lidar] What can you, Israel, the delegation, offer Syria? Peace?

[Ben-Aharon] I always come up against that question as though when we go into negotiations with a country like Syria we have to present assets. I do not know why the question even has to be asked. [passage omitted] Syria controls Lebanon. It took over control of Lebanon, it exploited the Gulf war to end its takeover over that miserable small country. We are told by many foreigners that a deal can be cut with al-Asad, that the man knows how to keep his word. I always thought what a cunning and cruel a leader he is. He knew that inciting us on the Golan Heights would lead to friction which could endanger his capital because we are situated some 30 to 40 km from Damascus, but he stretched his hand across his border, and since 1975 Syria has steadily and cruelly taken action to take over that country, to overrun the Palestinians, the various terrorist organizations, the Maronites, and the Lebanese Government, which has become a Syrian puppet.

That is something that affects Israel's security and must be on the negotiating agenda between us and Syria. That is 100 times preferable to the repeated question: What assets are we going to offer Syria on the negotiating table? We will first ask Syria what is happening about its takeover of Lebanon, what right does it have to control a neighboring country, how is it different from what Saddam Husayn did in Kuwait, and why did the world remain silent when Syria took over Lebanon. We will also ask Syria what it is doing in the al-Biqa' where there are terrorist organizations which operate against Israel. Look what happened this morning [three soldiers were killed and two wounded in South Lebanon]. The terrorists leave from areas under the Syrian Army's control and nobody can tell us different. What about Syrian activity and the Syrian Army in the drug trade? There are those who say that the Syrian Army and its officers up to the highest levels are earning close to $2 billion annually in the drug trade, which is corrupting an entire generation of youngsters around the world. We will ask other questions too about the status and fate of the Syrian Jewish community—all 4,500—who are prisoners of Zion. We have all that to put on the negotiating table before the Syrians even ask us questions about the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

[Lidar] What are Israel's red lines in this conference? When will we get up and leave?

[Ben-aharon] I would say it is not the territorial issue. You might expect me to say territory, but I will not. I would like to know during the negotiations, and they could last for many months, that we are dealing with an Arab element prepared to end the conflict. If he is prepared to end the conflict then there are a series of things I would present to him which constitute a test and will enable him to prove through actions that he is ending the conflict. Then if he faces the test we will advance, if that is not the red line. I would look for a way to end the process and wait for another round some time in the future, whatever happens, even if there are those who come and complain to us. We will say that since we presented the tests and they did not meet them, then there is no point to negotiations.

[Lidar] In other words, there will not be a quick blow-up.

[Ben-Aharon] No, in my view, no.

Palestinians Maneuver in Approach to Talks

Submit Final List of 14

TA1910183091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Leading Palestinian negotiator Faysal al-Husayni this afternoon submitted a final list of the Palestinian representation at the peace conference. The list was handed over to the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, Molly Williamson. Williamson arrived at al-Husayni's home in which she received the list that includes 14 names. Yesterday, Williamson visited al-Husayni in order to give him the U.S. letter of assurances and an invitation for the Palestinian [representation] to the conference.

Heading the Palestinian representation will apparently be Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi from the Gaza Strip—this according to East Jerusalem sources. The 72-year-old 'Abd-al-Shafi is identified with the left-wing stream of the PLO.

It now appears the list will also include Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, former chairman of the Palestine Journalists Association, who is due back from Amman tomorrow. Another name mentioned is Samih Kan'an, a resident of Nabulus

with a Jewish mother who married a Muslim before the state was declared. Kan'an was freed from detention in the Ahmad Jibril deal and it is thought he will represent both Nabulus and those arrested in the intifadah.

Details of U.S. Assurances

TA2010082091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Last Friday afternoon, soon after the historic announcement that a peace conference will be convened, U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem Molly Williamson arrived at Faysal al-Husayni's home to deliver an invitation to the conference and the document of assurances the Palestinians had requested. It has been learned that the document of assurances contains a clause in which the United States guarantees that the status of Jerusalem will be discussed in the second stage of negotiations, and that although the United States is in favor of a united Jerusalem, it recognizes the right of East Jerusalem residents to participate in elections to autonomy institutions.

The invitation states that Palestinian self-rule will be discussed in the first stage of conference, which will end within one year from the beginning of negotiations. The second stage of negotiations will deal with the permanent solution.

The conference's two sponsors—the United States and the Soviet Union—guarantee that the process will be successful and state that they regard this conference as the only way to attain true peace.

List of Names; Team Chief Profiled

TA2010081591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Oct 91 p 5

[Report by Roni Shaqed and David Regev]

[Excerpt] Yesterday afternoon, Faysal al-Husayni handed U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem Molly Williamson a letter announcing that the Palestinians agree to take part in the peace conference. He also gave her a list of 14 names who will represent the Palestinians at the conference.

Here are the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation:

1. Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor, independent.

2. Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Gaza, Fatah.

3. Attorney Furayh Abu-Mudayn, Gaza, Fatah.

4. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Gaza, independent, leftist.

5. Attorney and reporter Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, village of al- 'Ayzariyah, Fatah.

6. Ghassan al-Khatib, Ramallah, Communist Party.

7. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Jericho, Fatah.

8. Dr. Sami al-Kaylani, village of Ya'bad, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

9. Samih Kan'an, Nabulus, Fatah.

10. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamid, Bayt Hanun, Fatah

11. Dr. Mamduh al-'Akr, Nabulus, Fatah.

12. Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari, Hebron, independent.

13. Dr. Ghad al-Sahak [name as published], Bayt Sahur, Communist Party.

14. Salih Abu-Labban, al-Duhayshah, DFLP.

[The same page of YEDI'OT AHARONOT carries another item by Roni Shaqed adding that on 18 October, Yasir 'Arafat called Faysal al- Husayni on the phone and "demanded that Ilyas Frayj and Radwan Abu- 'Ayyash be included in the delegation.

["Al-Husayni accepted Frayj, but rejected Abu-'Ayyash. 'It is I or Radwan,' he told 'Arafat. Abu-'Ayyash is not in the delegation.

["Al-Husayni also managed to withstand PLO pressure to include Sa'id Kan'an and Shahir Sa'd in the delegation. The compromise reached was the inclusion of Samih Kan'an."]

According to East Jerusalem sources, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, 65, from Gaza, will lead the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. 'Abd-al-Shafi, who heads the Red Crescent organization, is a physician with leftist opinions, but he is known as a pragmatic, mainstream man. Last night he said: "I do not know anything. It is all rumor. I have been given no official notice yet."

'Abd-al-Shafi was born in the Gaza Strip. He is married and has five children. His political activity started in the 1960's, when he joined the Palestine National Council and was Hamad Shuqri's deputy. When Israel took over the Strip, he was detained because of his activity. In 1976 he was deported to the Sinai because of extremist activity, and he returned to Gaza in 1979. Ten years ago, he was elected to the Gaza City Council and served as deputy mayor.

Williamson gave al-Husayni the invitation to the conference and the official letter of assurances last Friday night in al-Husayni's house in Jerusalem.

Baker did not give Shamir the list of the Palestinian delegation members on Friday, but it has been learned that Israel has the list. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Conference

TA2110070591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, by Ya'el Dan—live in English]

[Text] [Dan] Mr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, good morning.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Good morning.

[Dan] Can we congratulate you?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, this is going to be not an easy job, so I do not know whether congratulations are fit or not.

[Dan] But, first of all, you confirm that you are the top Palestinian negotiator, are you not?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes.

[Dan] OK. Do you know already for sure who is going to be in your delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, not yet. I know that the names were handed over. I know some of the names, but not all of them.

[Dan] Can you tell me some of the names?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, maybe because I am in Gaza, I am not aware of the last developments, and I better leave this not [word indistinct].

[Dan] Do you see the people in the delegations as representatives of the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, in the sense that all Palestinians have allegiance to the PLO, in this respect they are.

[Dan] Do you have any intention, in some point during the conference, to say: We are the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know whether this is.... [changes thought] At this point, at this moment, I do not see if we need to say at any juncture this. We shall not hesitate to say it if it is necessary, but certainly we are not going to refrain from affirming that we are supporters of the PLO.

[Dan] Are you going, at some point of the conference, to demand—as a condition—a settlement freeze?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Certainly we are going to emphasize the importance of Israel making a genuine gesture that would pave the way for meaningful negotiations, and I think such a gesture would be at least the freezing of settlements forthwith at the start of the conference to symbolize the seriousness of Israel about establishing peace in these negotiations.

[Dan] But you are not going to demand this as a condition?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not like to speak in such terms of conditions, but certainly we consider this to be a very important matter. It could become, I mean it could be, and in my opinion it is in the level of a condition, but it is too early to tell how we shall go about this.

[Dan] What can be the common basis for the bilateral talks between your delegation and the Israeli delegation? Can the Israeli plan for autonomy be some kind of a basis?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We would be ready to accept interim arrangements like autonomy, provided that it is very well understood and admitted that it is going to be a stage toward fulfilling our basic rights in a Palestinian state.

[Dan] Mr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, are you optimistic that we are going toward peace in the very near future?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, I really want to be optimistic, and I think the fact that I have accepted to participate in this delegation and go to the conference by itself indicate that I entertain a good deal of optimism; otherwise, if I were pessimistic, maybe I would not have accepted.

[Dan] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, I thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

More on Name Lists

TA2010183691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The Palestinians have given the United States two lists of their representatives to the Madrid conference. One list contains six names of the members of the advisory council to the delegates at the negotiations. The members of the advisory council are Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Sari Nusaybah, all residents of East Jerusalem, as well as three representatives of the Palestinian diaspora: Dr. Rashid al-Khaldi from New York; Kamil Mansur, a journalist from Paris; and attorney Anis al-Qasim from London.

The second list contains 14 names of representatives according to the following breakdown: five from the Gaza Strip, four from Nabulus, two from Hebron, one from the Ramallah District, a representative of the Christian community, and a member of the Communist Party. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash do not appear in the list.

Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned that all 20 Palestinian representatives will be invited to the conference by the United States, with the six consultants holding the status of official advisers at the conference.

One of Faysal al-Husayni's advisers said tonight that the Palestinians are ready for the conference and that working dossiers on the issues of water, natural resources, sovereignty over the land, and the settlements have already been completed.

Al-Husayni To Head 'Advisory Council'

TA2010083391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has given the U.S. consul in Jerusalem two lists with names of Palestinian representatives for Madrid. One of the lists contains Palestinian representatives from the territories to the peace negotiations, while another bears names of Palestinians who are to serve on an advisory council in connection with [leyad] the peace conference. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Americans have approved the Palestinian plan to set up such a council, which will be headed by Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sari Nusaybah, and which will provide counseling and will coordinate the positions of the Palestinian representatives and the Palestinian leadership in Tunisia.

Palestinians Depart for Amman

TA2010204891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 20 Oct 91

[Text] The publication of the official list of members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference is still being held up. Faysal al-Husayni said that he first wants to find out whether Israel has attached any conditions to its agreement to attend the Madrid conference.

Two senior Palestinian activists from the territories left Israel today. Zuhayra Kamal from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib from the Communist Party set out for Amman. Yasir 'Arafat has already arrived in Amman. The two Palestinian notables said that they are going to coordinate positions.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, the candidate to head the Palestinian delegation, said that a halting of the settlements must be the first step but that the discussion of the status of Jerusalem can be postponed.

Uprising Leaders: No Strikes on 1st Day of Talks

TA2010075591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Over the weekend, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising disseminated a special leaflet urging residents of the territories to refrain from staging strikes on the opening day of the peace conference, contrary to a call issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The special leaflet calls on the residents to hold a full morning-to-night business day.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that graffiti against the peace conference, including derogatory remarks against Faysal al- Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, were discovered in several locations in the territories. In most cases, the graffiti were erased by local residents in favor of the peace process.

East Jerusalem sources have stated that now that the peace conference is being convened, violence in the territories will subside if progress in the negotiations meets the expectations of the residents of the territories.

Opposition Parties React to Talks Move

Tehiya To Quit; Ne'eman To Resign

TA2010200191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The secret vote at the Tehiya Central Committee on whether to resign from the government has ended. Before the vote began, Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, said that if the Tehiya Central Committee decided to resign now, against his opinion, he would draw the required conclusions and abandon politics. Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen said that she would also act in accordance with her conscience, as she put it, if her proposal to resign immediately from the government was rejected. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports live from the Tehiya Central Committee.

['Azran] Good evening from the Tehiya Central Committee meeting in Tel Aviv. The decision has been made and the Tehiya's Central Committee has decided to resign from the government on the day the conference convenes in Madrid. This is an unexpected decision, which was immediately followed by Minister Yuval Ne'eman's announcement that he was drawing the necessary conclusions and resigning from the leadership of the movement. Good evening, Mr. Minister.

[Ne'eman] Good evening.

['Azran] What is the significance of your decision?

[Ne'eman] I will respect the Central Committee's decision and resign from the government, but I am also resigning the chairmanship of the Tehiya movement. I considered this a vote of confidence and after this I do not think that I can continue to accept responsibility for the movement's future path. I consider this a victory of emotions over reason. I do things differently and if the movement's Central Committee decides to choose this path, which strikes me as more suited to that of a protest movement, I will draw the appropriate conclusion and leave the movement. This is the culmination of 12 years in which I led the movement.

['Azran] How will the Tehiya's resignation affect the right- wing bloc's actions in light of the situation that has now developed?

[Ne'eman] I fear that this will lead to the crumbling of the package that I invested great efforts to put together and tightly wrap up over the past two months. This package included Ministers Refa'el Eytan and Rehav'am Ze'evi, who cooperated with us. I now fear that it will be impossible to count on the joint resignation that I had planned for.

['Azran] Thank you, Mr. Minister. Let us now turn to Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen. Do you think that you will lead the Tehiya now?

[Kohen] This was not a personal matter at all. Today the Tehiya made a decision that, as far as the movement goes, I am proud of.

['Azran] What is its significance?

[Kohen] I am proud of this vote. It was natural for our movement to make such a decision. This decision, however, was also accompanied by much sadness over the fact that Yuval decided to draw conclusions and resign. I hope that he will fully accept the Central Committee's decision, which called on him not to resign from the chairmanship, and I therefore hope that he will continue to lead us.

['Azran] Thank you, Deputy Minister Kohen.

Shamir Aides Regret Tehiya Move

TA2010212291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that sources close to the prime minister said that the Tehiya Central Committee's decision was mistaken and unjustified because the government was acting to promote the peace process and to safeguard Eretz Yisra'el. The prime minister's associates added that the government would continue to keep its majority in the Knesset and that no threat was posed to its stability.

The Moledet movement announced that it would remain in the coalition as long as there were no negotiations over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Comment by Tehiya's Kohen, Others

TA2010111891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hayim Shibi and Goga Kogan]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen said yesterday that "Israel has wholly and utterly fallen into the conference trap, which is bound to become a sacrificial altar."

According to her, Shamir and Levi will not alone bear the responsibility for "selling us to the PLO." Tehiya, Moledet, and Tzomet will be likewise responsible unless they resign from the government at once. "Judaea and Samaria are no Sinai, and Jerusalem is not Yamit [Sinai settlement evacuated and demolished following Camp David accords]. We, the Eretz Yisra'el faithful, will wage a world war over them."

Hayim Ramon, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, asked the Knesset speaker to ascertain that the cabinet resolution to begin negotiations with Arab countries and the Palestinians be brought up for a debate in, and approval by, the Knesset.

CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy have issued a joint statement warning that "there will be no absolution for the man who torpedoes the historic voyage or who fails to bring peace to Israel and all its neighbors." The factions expressed joy at the convening of a conference and satisfaction at "the defeat of peace refuseniks."

The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction yesterday welcomed the convening of the conference. The party called on the government not to place hurdles and obstacles on the path to a successful conclusion of the conference." [passage omitted]

Heads of the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights regional councils demanded last weekend that the government impose Israeli law on the Jordan Rift Valley before the beginning of political negotiations.

NRP Conditions for Participation

TA2010132091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1224 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Excerpt] In its meeting this morning, the NRP [National Religious Party] bureau authorized its ministers to vote for the Madrid conference. The ministers are to demand that the prime minister guarantee that the cabinet will approve any conference resolution related to the following five points: No negotiations are to be held on the status of Jerusalem; the Golan Heights will remain inside Israeli territory; the NRP is against a freeze of settlement activity; if the Palestinian delegation is found to be identified with the PLO, negotiations will stop; autonomy will be implemented over people, not territories—which means that Israel should declare at the conference that Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are under Israeli sovereignty.

Minister Zvulun Hammer has told me that the NRP ministers will vote in accordance with the bureau directive. [passage omitted]

Three Soldiers Killed, 2 Hurt in Lebanon Blast

TA2010163291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1618 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed this morning and two others were injured when an explosive charge was detonated as an IDF patrol was moving in the eastern sector of the Lebanese security zone, east of Kafr Ruman. One of the injured soldiers is in critical condition. The families of the dead and injured soldiers have been notified.

The chief of staff and commander of the Northern Command arrived at the scene and carried out an initial debriefing of the commanders and soldiers there. The explosive charge went off at around 1015 this morning under two IDF armored vehicles that were carrying out routine operational activity in the eastern sector of the security zone.

IDF Planes Attack 'Terrorist' Targets

TA2110091991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0913 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has just released the following statement:

Air Force jets attacked a terrorist target in Jibshit, northwest of al-Nabatiyah, in Lebanon this morning. The IDF spokesman reports that the target was destroyed and all our planes returned safely to base. The target that was attacked served as the headquarters of the Hizballah organization.

This was the IDF spokesman's announcement.

Announcement of Peace Conference Welcomed

JN1910071191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan welcomes the American-Soviet announcement that a Middle East peace conference will begin in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 30 and hopes that the meeting will lead to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said Friday.

While describing the choice of Madrid as the venue for the conference as a pleasant surprise and the Spanish capital as a "wonderful city," Mr. al-Sharif said, "What is more important is the substance and results" of the first direct Arab-Israeli peace talks after decades of conflict.

"We are only at the beginning of a tortuous road," the minister told the JORDAN TIMES. "We hope that the road will lead to a just and lasting peace, including the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people."

Asked whether he now expected a smooth process in the run-up to the peace conference, Mr. al-Sharif referred to reports of last- minute snags posed by Israel, including a cabinet consideration on the issue scheduled for Sunday [20 October].

"We don't know whether these problems have been overcome," he said. "We have to wait and see."

It was not immediately known whether Jordan had actually received the conference invitation, issued jointly by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The invitations were sent by the State Department in cables to U.S. embassies in each country. The embassies, in turn, were to deliver them to the foreign ministry of each invitee.

Information Minister al-Sharif spoke after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced in occupied Jerusalem that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev were issuing invitations to the Arabs and Israel to attend the peace conference. [passage omitted]

Government Receives Invitation to Madrid Meeting

JN1910121491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] On behalf of the Jordanian Government, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has received an invitation to Jordan, from Presidents George Bush of the United States and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, to participate in the peace conference scheduled to open in Madrid on 30 October.

The invitation was delivered by the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Amman who called on Abu-Jabir in his office at the Foreign Ministry.

Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Bahrain have also received invitations from the United States and the Soviet Union to attend the Middle East peace conference. The U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Damascus, Beirut, Tunis, and Manama delivered these invitations to the four countries' foreign ministers.

U.S., Soviet Envoys Comment

JN1910161791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] U.S. ambassador in Amman Roger Harrison has said that he expects the governments involved to reply to invitations to the peace conference no later than next Wednesday [23 October]. He explained that the conference will be held at the ministerial level, as noted in the invitations, and added that the U.S. and Soviet Presidents will attend the opening session, which could last for two or three days.

The U.S. ambassador, along with the Soviet ambassador in Amman, delivered an invitation to Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir from the U.S. and Soviet Presidents to Jordan to particiapte in the peace conference. After delivering the invitation, the U.S. ambassador said that the European Community, the United Nations, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states will participate in the opening session as observers. As for the multilateral phase, which will begin two weeks after the opening of the conference, there will be participation and contribution on the part of the Gulf states.

For his part, Soviet Ambassador in Amman Yuriy Gryadunov said that the Soviet Union and the United States have cooperated closely to prepare for the conference and that they have overcome many difficulties. Speaking to reporters, he described efforts by the U.S. and Soviet Presidents with regard to peace in the region and the convening of the conference as successful.

Commenting on the Soviet foreign minister's trip to Jordan, he said that this visit confirms that the Soviet leadership attaches great importance to the role that Jordan plays in the peace process, citing ongoing coordination efforts and consultations between the two countries in this regard. He added that the visit should be viewed in this context.

Responding to questions from reporters, the Soviet ambassador said that UN resolutions will remain the basis for finding solutions to the Middle East issue. Asked whether bilateral, as well as multilateral, negotiations will be held in Madrid, he said that this depends on the attitudes of the participants in the conference who will decide it.

Cabinet To Discuss Invitation

JN1910170191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has received an invitation addressed to Jordan from the U.S. and Soviet Presidents to participate in the peace conference. The invitation was delivered by the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Amman.

After receiving the invitation, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said:

[Begin recording] Of course, I will carry the invitation this evening to the Council of Ministers, which will discuss it and give an appropriate reply at the appropriate time. We are optimistic to a certain degree. We hope that God will grant us success in this quest, which we believe is difficult. We hope that our citizens will give us enough time and take into consideration the address deliverd by his majesty the king to the national congress, particularly given the fact that the road ahead of us is long, rugged, and, perhaps, arduous. [end recording]

The foreign minister expressed his welcome for, and satisfaction at, the choice of Madrid as a venue for the peace conference. He added: I am confident that the Spanish Government will provide all facilities to make the conference convene and succeed.

With regard to the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Amman, the foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] It is extremely important. We, of course, greatly welcome His Excellency Minister Boris Pankin's visit to Jordan. We will discuss bilateral matters, in addition to numerous other issues which we must address. We will also discuss the peace conference scheduled for the end of October. As you know, the Soviet Union is a cosponsor of this conference, along with the United States. We welcome the visit and are looking forward to it. [end recording]

Cabinet Accepts 'In Principle'

JN1910193891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session this evening chaired by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri. The council studied the invitation received by the foreign minister and addressed to the Jordanian Government from the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union to attend the peace conference scheduled to be held in Madrid on 30 October.

In accordance with the constants and principles governing Jordanian policy since 1967—a policy based on commitment to international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which are based on the principle of exchanging land for peace, the inadmissibility of occupying another's territory by force, and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem—and ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; given the desire to reach a comprehensive, just, and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict; given that the proposed peace conference provides a real opportunity to reach a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region; given the Council of Ministers' awareness of the nature of Arab, regional, and international developments; and as an expression of assuming national and pan-Arab responsibility, the Council of Ministers has decided to accept, in principle, the invitation addressed to the Jordanian Government to participate in the proposed peace conference through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This acceptance will be communicated to the two cosponsors of the conference through diplomatic channels.

Information Minister Comments

JN1910203991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the Cabinet meeting, the News at Ten asked Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif on tonight's decision:

[Begin recording] [Al-Sharif] The Council has discussed in depth the invitation that has been extended to the Government of Jordan by President Bush and President Gorbachev to participate in the forthcoming peace conference in Spain, and following the discussion, the Council of Ministers has accepted the invitation. And Jordan will participate in the conference by a joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation.

[Station reporter] Have you decided on the delegation, the Jordanian delegation?

[Al-Sharif] Not yet. The matter is still under discussion, but we have not yet finalized any list of the potential participants in the conference from the Jordanian side. But this matter is under discussion.

[Station reporter] When would that be finalized?

[Al-Sharif] I think within a short period of time—within probably four or five days or a week, probably, we would be able to talk about that. [end recording]

Al-Masri, 'Arafat on Conference, Coordination

JN2010125191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Prime Ministry at noon today in the presence of officials from both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest in the efforts being made to convene the peace conference in Madrid, the results of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, and coordination with the friendly Arab parties concerned with the peace conference in order to

implement international legitimacy and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Engineer 'Ali Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications; Mahmud al-Sharif, minister of information; and the director of the occupied territories' affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Yasir 'Amr.

Israeli Decision To Attend Conference Greeted

JN2010172691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1706 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Jordan, through Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif, has welcomed the Israeli Government's decision to attend the peace conference, and pointed out that the conference has now become a reality. In a statement to our radio, al-Sharif hoped that Israel will act in the same spirit during the negotiations. According to al-Sharif, going to the conference does not necessarily mean that Israel will respond to international legitimacy and the sincere desire to achieve coexistence in the region. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from responsible Palestinian sources that 'Arafat will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin in Paris in the next 48 hours.

'Arafat Comments on Talks With King Husayn

JN2010191991 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] A round of talks was held this afternoon at Raghdan Palace between a Jordanian delegation, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and a Palestinian delegation, led by His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The talks were attended for Jordan by Prime Minister Tahir al- Masri; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty the king's political adviser; and His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary. For the Palestinians, the talks were attended by PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Sulayman al- Najjab, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Yasir 'Amr, and by the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

The talks dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and its particular importance at this phase when preparations are under way to convene a peace conference in the Spanish capital.

Following the conclusion of this round of talks, our political affairs correspondent met with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I am pleased that I had the honor to meet with his majesty the king this afternoon. We held a private meeting, as well as a broader meeting between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. We discussed everything related to our joint Jordanian-Palestinian action concerning the steps for peace, the conference scheduled to convene in Madrid on 30 October, and the joint march on all levels. Do not forget that this Palestinian- Jordanian effort is an old, renewable one. We seek to achieve the best conditions with regard to our Arab and Palestinian rights in the midst of the regional developments that followed the Gulf crisis and the international developments taking place at the end of the cold and hot World War III [as heard]. There are international developments taking place these days. In the midst of these developments, there must be such a Palestinian-Jordanian effort and an Arab effort as this so that we can face the challenges, including that of the steps for peace.

[Correspondent] Mr. president, can we say that bilateral coordination among the five concerned Arab states is a substitute for convening a meeting or a summit of these states?

['Arafat] In a lengthy meeting yesterday, we agreed with brother President al-Asad that efforts by the frontline states—Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine—must be coordinated on all levels. We also agreed that, God willing, a meeting will be held in the next few days at the foreign minister level and that this meeting will set a date for the summit, which must convene as soon as possible, because, as you see, time is running against us. Only 10 days separate us from the Madrid conference.

We have agreed with the brothers here in Amman, and we also agreed with the brothers in Damascus and Cairo, that there must be an Arab effort. We recall the decision made at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting last month in Cairo which states that Arab action must support and back the five frontline states. [end recording]

Al-Masri Meets Occupied Territories Delegation

JN2010201791 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2008 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met this afternoon with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories. The delegation, which arrived in Amman today, groups Dr. Ghassan al- Khatib and Miss Zahirah Kamal. The news agency PETRA, which carried the news, did not give any details of the meeting.

Foreign Minister Handed Invitation to Peace Conference

Delivered by U.S., Soviet Envoys

NC1910105291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning received a U.S-Soviet invitation to attend the peace conference in Madrid. The invitation was delivered by U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. Minister Buwayz also received the U.S. letter of assurances. The meeting ended a short while ago, and Ambassadors Ilichev and Crocker had the following to say to reporters:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Could you tell us if you handed Minister Buwayz a message on the peace process?

[Ilichev, in Arabic] We had the honor of meeting his excellency the minister and of handing him an invitation to participate in the Middle East peace conference. We, I and my colleague and friend the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, delivered the invitation.

[Correspondent] Did Minister Buwayz inform you of Lebanon's agreement to attend the conference on 30 October?

[Ilichev] Our basic mission, that of my colleague and myself, was to deliver the invitation to the Lebanese Government, which will decide on the issue of participation, the delegation, and other issues.

[Correspondent] What will the level of representation be at the peace conference—presidents or foreign ministers?

[Ilichev] The conference will be held at the level of foreign ministers. As I understood, our foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state will co-chair the peace conference.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us, Your Excellency the Ambassador, why Madrid was chosen as the venue for the conference?

[Ilichev] Madrid was chosen following intense consultations among us, the United States, and the other parties concerned. It was the result of full agreement among the parties concerned.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Ambassador Crocker: Did you hand the Lebanese foreign minister the letter of assurances, and what are the main clauses in this letter?

[Crocker, in English] We have indeed submitted to the Government of Lebanon a letter of assurances. As we have said repeatedly, there will be no secret assurances. Assurances given to one party will be made known to all in the proper time. [end recording]

Buwayz Comments on Conference

NC2010152091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent at Beirut airport prior to President Ilyas al-Hirawi's departure from Beirut to Paris on 20 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister, as you know, we are now at the threshold of the international peace conference. What preparations has Lebanon made in this regard, especially considering that Wednesday [23 October] is the last day for giving a response to whether Lebanon will attend this conference?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese decision is based on the principle of Arab solidarity. Lebanon is going to the conference on the basis of Arab solidarity and the need to regain the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's rights. Actually, there is close coordination between Lebanon and most of the Arab states in this regard. We have asked for very careful coordination, particularly among the five states called the confrontation states. As for preparations, we have held a number of contacts, the latest being the meeting in Damascus three days ago at the level of the supreme council. The meeting involved a number of relevant ministers. The Foreign Ministry held long talks designed to close ranks and coordinate positions.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the delegation that will attend the peace conference?

[Buwayz] The question of the delegation is a technical matter. The question of who will participate in the delegation will be decided in the next few days. What matters in this regard is how circumstances are tackled, the nature of Arab solidarity, and the level of coordination among the states—which alone can ensure the restoration of Arab rights.

[Correspondent] There is talk about the possibility of convening a meeting of the foreign ministers of the five confrontation states. Has a date been set for this meeting, and will Lebanon attend it?

[Buwayz] Naturally, this principle is on the agenda. Of course, if such a meeting takes place, Lebanon will attend and will be represented by anyone designated by the cabinet, in the absence of the foreign minister. Furthermore, this type of meeting has been a Lebanese demand. We raised this matter during the Arab League meeting and demanded a mechanism for coordination among the five states and a mechanism for coordination between the five states and the other Arab states.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in the wake of the recent UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's position regarding the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south,

there is a new wager on the implementation of Resolution 425. How do you visualize European support at international forums for implementation of this resolution?

[Buwayz] The capitals we visit can play a basic role, whether these capitals are Paris, the Vatican, or Rome. Of course, these capitals are friendly capitals and have always strongly supported our causes, and awareness and commitment to justice and truth have been some of their characteristics. There is no doubt that we count on the positions of these states and what they can do to support our position.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, it is being said that the U.S. guarantees are conditional on bilateral negotiations with Israel [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] It seems there is confusion among bilateral negotiations, multilateral negotiations, the issue of Lebanon, and other issues. This is an international conference that will disuss comprehensive peace among the countries of this region. This conference will, of course, demand negotiations in several directions, at several levels, and on several issues. Therefore, there will be bilateral and multilateral negotiations on a large number of issues. Lebanon's position is very clear on this issue. Lebanon will absolutely not agree to enter into multilateral negotiations on issues pertaining to the Middle East region unless basic and concrete progress is made, and unless there are guarantees that the Arab states will regain their territories and the brother Palestinians regain their legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

Political Party Leaders Comment on Peace Summit

Junblatt—Conference Represents 'Truce'

NC1910191991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] In a statement in Tehran, Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt has stressed that the Middle East peace conference will be only a truce. He said that this conference represents a short truce, but not peace. Junblatt, who is participating in the Tehran conference in support of the intifadah in the occupied Arab land, expressed his belief that Israel will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, nor will it stop building Jewish settlements. He said that Madrid, which embodies the Arab's golden age, will become a symbol of Arab retreat before Zionism.

Fadlallah—Conference Will 'Abolish' Palestine

NC1910180891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] [Hizballah leader] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the current stage is intended to liquidate the Palestinian issue by Arab and Palestinian signatures. He said that all parties, including the Palestinians, will agree to abolish political Palestine in the peace conference. He pointed out that the United States is acting to mobilize all elements of strength for Israel and is stripping the Arab party of all its points of strength so that its position will be weak on all levels.

President al-Hirawi, Delegation Depart for Paris

NC2010114691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Beirut airport for Paris at 1230 today accompanied by Ministers Faris Buwayz and Marwan Hamadah; Major General Muhammad Qubrusly, director of the internal security forces; Raymond Rufayil, director of public security; and Major General Nabih Farhat, director of state security. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad To Allow Wife of Hostage To Visit

'Humanitarian' Reasons Cited

NC1910063091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0558 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] In a statement issued at about 2315 yesterday, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Organization announced that it has agreed for humanitarian reasons to a request by American hostage Jesse Turner to allow his wife and his daughter to visit him. The organization stipulated that the visit should be arranged through the United Nations.

It attached to its statement a hand-written letter in English, dated 18 October 1991 and signed by Turner, in which Turner informs his wife that his captors have allowed her to visit him and that she should arrive in Beirut as soon as possible. The organization denies that it has asked for guarantees.

Communique, Turner Letter Released

NC1910063491 Paris AFP in English 0003 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Beirut, Oct 19 (AFP) - Lebanese kidnappers on Friday said they had agreed to a meeting between one of two U.S. hostages in their hands and his wife if held "under U.N. auspices".

The decision by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) was announced in a typed communique and in the photocopy of a handwritten letter by U.S. hostage Jesse Turner to his wife Bader.

The communique and the photocopy that were handed to an international press agency here were authenticated by a color picture of Turner and U.S. hostage Alann Steen who was also kidnapped by the IJLP.

The two wore a beard, grey sportswear and were looking frail and emaciated.

In the letter dated October 18 Turner said he was waiting for his wife to come to see him.

"I want you know that I am in good health, but I am anxious to be free, to see you and our daughter", he said.

"I asked those holding me prisoner if I could see you and our daughter. They agreed that I could see you and Joan for one hour."

Turner said that they "must come to Beirut as soon as possible to see me".

"After that everything will be o.k.," he added.

The undated IJLP communique which was the first since last March said the organization had agreed to the meeting between Turner and his wife for "humanitarian reasons".

Three Western hostages—two Britons and an American—have been freed since the United Nations sent out feelers for a comprehensive settlement of the hostage crisis earlier this year.

Palestinian extremists have linked the issue to prisoners held by Israel.

Nine hostages including five Americans are still being held by pro-Iranian groups in the Middle East.

U.S. Hostage, Lebanese Prisoners To Be Exchanged

NC2010120591 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Beirut, Oct 20 (AFP) - Lebanese kidnappers should release an American hostage within 24 hours and a number of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel should also be set free, the United Nations said in a statement here Sunday.

The statement said this would crown efforts deployed recently by U.N. hostage negotiator Giandomenico Picco, who visited Syria and Lebanon last week to seek a solution to the Middle East hostage crisis.

Voice of Lebanon Notes Announcement

NC2010124191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The United Nations today announced that it expects a U.S. hostage in Lebanon to be released within 24 hours, and that it expects Israel to release a number of Lebanese prisoners.

UN Envoy—Kidnappers' Safety Not Discussed

NC2010142491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] UN Envoy Giandomenico Picco has denied news reports that he discussed the safety of individuals belonging to groups holding hostages in Lebanon following the release of all hostages.

Picco stressed that this subject was not discussed directly or indirectly.

Negotiations 'Proceeded Well'

NC2010171491 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 20 Oct 91

[by Michel Moutot]

[Text] Beirut, Oct 20 (AFP)—An American hostage held in Lebanon and a number of Lebanese prisoners detained by Israel's proxy militia should be released within 24 hours of 1100 GMT, the United Nations said here on Sunday.

In a statement, the U.N. office here said negotiations between U.N. hostage negotiator Giandomenico Picco and Abu-'Abdallah, the representative of the hostage-taking organizations, "have proceeded well."

It contradicted comments earlier Sunday by Israeli negotiator Uri Lubrani, who said his country was not prepared to make any further "gesture" and release Arab prisoners to improve the chances of a settlement of the hostage issue.

An invitation tendered Friday [to] Badr Turner, the wife of American hostage Jesse Turner, to visit her husband for an hour is interpreted as a sign that he may be the next Western captive about to be set free.

The release of more hostages would crown Picco's recent trips to Syria and Lebanon last week to seek.

Five Americans, one Briton, two Germans and an Italian are held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

"The efforts of the secretary general of the United Nations to solve the humanitarian problem of the hostages, detainees and the missings in and around Lebanon have undergone an intensive stage during the last several days," the U.N. statement said.

It said Picco had maintained close contacts with the concerned parties and had a meeting last week in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley with 'Abdallah, his interlocutor.

"It is expected that (a) U.S. hostage will be released approximately within the next 24 hours, as a result of further contacts of the U.N. envoy.

"There is also the expectation that a number of Lebanese detainees in south Lebanon will be freed."

Lebanese kidnappers of Western hostages offered in August to set free their detainees in exchange for the release of some 400 Arab prisoners held by Israel and its proxy militia in Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The offer was hand-delivered to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller by former British hostage John McCarthy, who was released by his captors on August 8.

An American and another Briton were subsequently set free and Israel in September returned the bodies of nine

militants of the pro-Iranian group Hezbollah and ordered the SLA to release 51 Lebanese prisoners.

However, since the September 24 release of British hostage Jack Mann, the exchange process has been suspended.

The remarks earlier Sunday by Lubrani, the Israeli negotiator, came a day after the Israeli Defense Ministry reported the death of one of its soldiers who had been missing in Lebanon since 1986.

The hostage negotiator said Israel was still demanding news on four other soldiers.

Each side had been demanding that the other take the next step in restarting the exchange process and, if the releases go ahead as the U.N. statement indicated, it seems that Picco succeeded in breaking the deadlock.

Reports from Damascus indicated that Syria's state-run channel 2 television was ready and waiting for another scoop on the hostages in Lebanon.

Hostages freed in Lebanon have been taken to Damascus where they have been handed over to their embassies. Syrian television has always had first crack at interviewing them.

Lebanese Prisoner Handed Over

TA2110095191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] This is just in from the news room: This morning at the Rosh Haniqra crossing, Israel released a Lebanese who was imprisoned in Israel. His name is 'Ali 'Abbas Fawwaz, and our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz quotes the Voice of Lebanon radio as saying that the man was handed over to International Red Cross representatives.

14 Lebanese Freed 21 Oct

NC2110081091 Paris AFP in English 0752 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tel Aviv, Oct 21 (AFP)—Israel on Monday set free 14 Lebanese Muslim prisoners who had been held in south Lebanon, in a new step which could unblock the Middle East hostage crisis, military sources here said.

The measure follows reports that Israel on Saturday received conclusive information on the death of one of its soldiers missing in Lebanon since February 1986.

15th Prisoner Released

NC2110103291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Red Cross sources in Tyre have announced that five of the released Arab detainees have been handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross and that they will be taken to Beirut later. Israel released 14 prisoners.

We have just received a report citing a military source in Tel Aviv that Israel has released a 15th Lebanese prisoner. The report does not mention where he was held.

Israeli Unit Storms Village, Detains 2

NC1910072291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] AFP has quoted a security source in Tyre as saying that a 70-strong Israeli unit stormed the village of Shib'a yesterday and detained two Lebanese youngsters who the Israelis accused of carrying out acts of sabotage against Israel. The source pointed out that approximately 300 Israeli soldiers recently have replaced South Lebanese Army personnel along the border zone, particularly in the eastern and central sectors.

Israeli Reinforcements, Attack in South Reported

NC1910104291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Israeli occupation forces have brought reinforcements into their positions on al-Ahmadiyah hill and the eastern approaches to al-Surayri. The occupation forces and the Lahd militia also have sent about 15 vehicles to the Kafr Huna area in the Jazzin district.

According to reports received from the south, a new operation was carried out against the Lahd militia position on al-Suwaydah hill, near 'Arab Salim, at 0600 today.

2 Palestinians Killed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Blast

NC1910204891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Two Palestinians were killed and 11 others were wounded when a bomb exploded during a wedding in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the south.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon, South

NC2010093191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the south at 1000 today at medium altitude .

Israeli Troops Killed in 20 Oct Mine Blast

NC2010121791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1155 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] REUTER has quoted security sources as saying two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others were wounded when the vehicle they were in hit a mine today. The sources said the explosion took place 2 km east of Al-Nabatiyah. The occupation troops conducted a wide-scale search of the area following the operation.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack

NC2010172091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] According to security sources, a bomb explosion killed three Israeli soldiers and injured five others on the northern part of the occupied border area today. The sources said the bomb exploded near an Israeli patrol as it passed a hill about two km east of al-Nabatiyah City. Following the attack, Israeli soldiers searched the area for resistance men.

Surely the attack will anger Israeli right wingers who are opposed to the peace conference scheduled to be held in Madrid.

In Beirut the Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack, saying two Israeli vehicles were destroyed.

Al-Nabatiyah Hit in Retaliation

NC2010201891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Israeli forces shelled the al-Nabatiyah area with heavy artillery this evening in retaliation for the bomb attack against an Israeli patrol in which a number of soldiers were killed or wounded.

Al-Hirawi—No More Attacks on Israel

NC2010205891 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 20 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Sunday pledged that there would be no more attacks on Israel from Lebanon.

"The Lebanese Government assumes the responsibility" of making sure that "on either side of the Lebanese-Israeli border, whether on the Lebanese or the Israeli side, there will not be a single attack by Lebanese citizens or residents," he said in a television interview.

His statement came as the Israeli Army announced the death of three of its soldiers killed Sunday by an explosive device in southern Lebanon.

The soldiers had been on patrol east of the village of Kfar Ruman, located in the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon. The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement claimed responsibility for the attack.

Al-Hirawi said he had given similar assurances to U.S. President George Bush and he reiterated Lebanon's demand that Israel withdraw from the strip of Lebanese territory it controls.

Al-Hirawi is on a two-day official visit to France, Lebanon's former colonial power, his first since becoming president last year. "There will never be peace" if Israel refuses to return any of the territories it occupied since 1967, the president also said.

He sounded an optimistic note on the upcoming Mideast peace conference, due to open in Madrid on October 30, saying that "for the first time, the Arabs have agreed and are in favour of peace."

"Before, they wanted the Israelis killed or thrown into the sea, but now, all the Arabs have said yes" to the peace conference, he said.

"Now, the ball is on (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's side of the court," he added.

Al-Hirawi's visit here highlighted the end of strains between France and Lebanon, arising out of the case of former Christian militia leader Michel 'Awn, who spent 10 months at the French Embassy in Beirut before being given political asylum in France.

Al-Hirawi was due to meet Monday with French counterpart Francois Mitterrand, following talks with French foreign and defence ministers, Roland Dumas and Pierre Joxe. Al-Hirawi is also to meet with the presidents of the National Assembly and the Senate, Laurent Fabius and Alain Poher, with the chairman of the national assembly's foreign affairs commission, Michel Vauzelle, and with Paris Mayor and opposition leader Jacques Chirac.

France has already stated its readiness to help with reconstruction of civil war-torn Lebanon, notably by rebuilding electricity and telephone networks.

In the military field, Lebanon is seeking to exchange old Mirage fighters for modern helicopters and to send officers for training here.

Maydun, Other Villages Shelled

NC2110064791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Three Israeli troops were killed and two injured when an explosve charge went off at an Israeli patrol near al-Nabatiyah yesterday morning.

The Islamic Resistance has claimed responsibility, saying that 15 Israelis were either killed or wounded.

According to security reports, the Israeli position overlooking al-Nabatiyah area mounted a wide-scale search, using various weapons. Israeli reinforcements and troops have been spotted in the security belt and on the ridges of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY said Israeli artillery bombarded Maydun and nearby villages yesterday.

Israel To Broach Incident at Summit

NC2110083691 Paris AFP in English 0800 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Al-Nabatiyah, Lebanon, Oct 21 (AFP) - Israel's proxy militia in Lebanon at dawn Monday shelled three villages near here in reprisal for a Sunday explosion which left three Israeli soldiers dead and two injured, security sources said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the 30-minute shelling of the villages, located in the Nabatiyeh district where three Israeli soldiers died in a blast caused by an explosive device.

The pro-Iranian Hizballah's military wing, the Islamic Resistance, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Israel has said it will bring up the matter of the deaths of the soldiers at the Middle East peace conference due to open in Madrid on October 30, and officials in Jerusalem have accused Syria, which deploys 35,000 troops in Lebanon, of responsibility.

Israeli troops and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen have been on maximum alert since Sunday's attack and have stepped up patrols inside the Israeli-imposed "security zone" east of here, Lebanese police said.

Voice of the South, a radio controlled by the Israeli-trained and financed SLA, in repeated broadcasts since Sunday, has ordered residents of a dozen Lebanese villages skirting the "security zone" to stay indoors after nightfall.

Violators might be shot at when the curfew comes into effect Monday evening, the radio said without providing further details.

Israeli General Yitzhak Mordechai, cited by the radio, warned residents in the region against cooperating with "armed elements and namely the Hizballah, or else life will become very difficult for them."

Armored Cars Enter Lebanon

NC2110091991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah region came under one hour of heavy artillery fire from Israeli positions this morning amid intensive helicopter overflights.

A security source said that well over 50 Israeli armored cars entered Lebanese territory via al-Mtullah settlement and deployed on ridges overlooking al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Lebanese Army in al-Nabatiyah is on maximum alert.

Hizballah Base in Jibshit Struck

NC2110100691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0956 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah has just told us that at 1045 today, two Israeli warplanes raided a Hizballah center in Jibshit in al-Nabatiyah. One of the aircraft fired two rockets at the center, completely destroying it. No casualties were reported. A number of houses were damaged in the raid.

Schools in Jibshit, in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and in al-Nabatiyah have been closed. Areas adjacent to the occupied border strip are very tense as Israeli warplanes continue to overfly the south.

Hizballah Radio—No Casualties

NC2110104691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1032 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Two Zionist warplanes raided Jibshit, strafing [qasafat] and destroying a two-story building at 1100 local time. AFP said there were no casualties because the building was empty during the raid.

Al-Shar' Receives Invitation to Madrid Conference

JN1910152991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1518 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Damascus, Christopher Ross and Aleksandr Zotov respectively. From the ambassadors he received an invitation extended by Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev to Syria to attend the peace conference, which will convene in Madrid on 30 October. The foreign minister informed the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors that Syria will give its answer to the invitation in the next few days.

Al-Asad Receives Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin

JN1910155791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and his delegation at 1130 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting. Pankin conveyed to President al-Asad greetings from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The president accepted the greetings and asked the Soviet foreign minister to convey his in return to Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin. The discussion at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations.

Pankin expressed Soviet appreciation for the position adopted by Syria and President al-Asad toward the Soviet Union, particularly during the difficult circumstances through which it was passing. He also stressed that the Soviet Union is eager to maintain relations and cooperation between the two countries.

President al-Asad noted with appreciation the Soviet Union's position with respect to Syria and Arab causes, stressing that Syria is eager to maintain bilateral relations and cooperation in the interest of both countries, as well as peace in the region and the world.

The talks centered on the current situation in the Middle East and the peace process. Pankin explained the Soviet Union's position on the peace process, as well as its eagerness to play a role—since it will cochair the conference—in contributing to efforts to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to reach a just and comprehensive solution. He also praised the president's shrewdness and his efforts to bring about a just peace.

President al-Asad then stressed Syria's eagerness to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on UN resolutions. He said that everyone has an interest in achieving a just and comprehensive peace and that everyone should work to reach this goal.

PLO's 'Arafat, Delegation Meet Damascus Leaders

Al-Asad Receives 'Arafat

JN1910162991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1621 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus—At 1715 today President Hafiz al-Asad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation, which includes [PLO Executive Committee members] Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Amr, Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Shafiq al-Hut. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended.

Joint Coordination Stressed

JN1910203191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2010 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 Oct (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at 1715 today. The delegation is composed of Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Amr, Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Shafiq al-Hut.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur. The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Arab- Israeli conflict, the attempts being made to hold a Middle East peace conference, and the contacts undertaken in this regard over the past few days.

The Palestinians praised the position of Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad. The president stressed Syria's firm belief that a just and comprehensive peace must be based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The importance of coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace conference was also emphasized.

Meeting 'Long Desired'

JN1910215191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Oct

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut has emphasized that today's meeting between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat was long desired by the Palestinian people both inside and outside occupied Palestine. In an exclusive statement to SANA today, al-Hut said that Syria has an effective and influential role to play in times of war and peace. He called today's meeting amiable, intimate, and genuine. The talks produced agreement to coordinate moves between Syria and the PLO concerning the peace conference set for the end of the month.

Al-Hut concluded his statement by saying: The two sides agreed that the five frontline states of Syria, Lebanon,

Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO should convene a meeting. They also agreed on the need for this meeting to encompass all Arab efforts to promote the firmest Arab position possible in our forthcoming battle of the challenge for a peace based on justice, the liberation of occupied Arab and Palestinian land, and the restitution of all national Palestinian rights.

Khaddam, 'Arafat Confer

JN1910153791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1517 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at 1130 today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended.

The conversation revolved around developments in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the phases covered by the process to prepare for convening a peace conference. Their views on the need for joint coordination were in agreement. 'Arafat arrived in Damascus at 0945 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Chair Supreme Council Meeting

JN1710135791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1229 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] We have just received the following report:

President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired the first meeting of the Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council, which convened at 1315 today in the People's Palace.

At the meeting, Syria was represented by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. On behalf of Lebanon, the meeting was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and defense minister.

The Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council was set up in accordance with the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination signed by the two parties on 22 May 1991.

Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Hold Meeting

JN1810141191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister. The meeting was also attended by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami. This meeting was followed by closed talks between the president and President al-Hirawi.

Supreme Council Concludes 18 Oct

JN1810172291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] The following report has just been received: In the meetings it held today and yesterday, Thursday, the Supreme Council concluded discussions of the topics listed on its agenda.

The Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council reviewed the provisions of the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination that have been implemented so far. The Council also listened to reports by the concerned ministers and committees with regard to the steps that have been taken to implement the treaty's provisions and to deepen and activate bilateral relations. The Council expressed satisfaction with what has already been accomplished and instructed the joint committees to finalize the texts of the remaining agreements and documents stipulated by the treaty in the economic, agricultural, and industrial fields and to take the necessary measures for their implementation.

The Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council discussed the appointment of a secretary general and an assistant secretary general for the council. It was agreed to announce the two names shortly.

The Council also discussed foreign issues, particularly those related to the upcoming peace conference. Both Syria and Lebanon fully agreed on the need to isolate the liberation of southern Lebanon from the crisis of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syria renewed its full support for Lebanon's right to liberate all its territory, to implement Security Council Resolution No. 425, and to spread the authority of the legitimate government over this territory. Their views on issues pertaining to a peace conference on the Middle East were also in agreement.

Afghanistan

Watan Party Plans 'Overhaul' of Power Structure

BK1910014691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0128 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 19 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah's Watan (Homeland) Party is planning a major overhaul of the existing power structure in Kabul, as it pursues a halting process of reform.

Party officials acknowledge the presence of hardline opposition within Watan to the proposed reforms, which are to be unveiled at a Central Committee plenum expected to be convened shortly.

Watan's deputy chairman, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, said the regime has already started dismantling party cells in government departments and ministries in a process of depoliticisation which it plans to extend to the Armed Forces.

But sources said a lack of funds is at least partly responsible for the winding up of the all-powerful party cells.

The flow of cash from the Soviet Communist Party which used to sustain the cells has dried up and recently Watan was even forced to change its party newspaper, PAYAM, from a daily to a weekly.

But the proposed reforms are even more far-reaching.

Moves being contemplated include the shifting of an estimated 20,000 fighting troops under the powerful Ministry of State Security and about 10,000 paramilitary troops attached to the Interior and Defence Ministries, the sources said.

If the moves are implemented, the Ministry of State Security will be transformed into a less powerful intelligence service. A collegium could be appointed to head what one analyst described as a "super Defence Ministry" which would come into being.

The 25,000-strong National Guard would, however, continue to function under the president and retain its elite identity.

Other proposals include a general amnesty and a "full realisation" of political and press freedom, party sources said.

The reforms are being considered at a time when peace moves have intensified in the direction of a transitional government proposed by the United Nations in May, followed by September's U.S.-Soviet agreement to cut arms supplies to the warring Afghan factions from January 1.

"The effort is to superimpose a credible Afghan structure on the existing party-dominated setup in the hope it will be acceptable to those opposition factions which would be willing to join a transitional government," an Asian diplomat said.

"An acceptable power structure has to be in place to preserve a semblance of order when the time for transition comes," the diplomat added. "So they are trying to build some sort of halfway-house where the party will not be conspicuously dominant."

Last year, Najibollah kicked off the reform process at a party congress where the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) shed its name and became the Watan in an effort to distance itself from its violent communist past.

But although it dropped communist appendages such as the Politbureau and adopted a new centrist Constitution, the old leadership stayed in place under Najibollah.

This time, knowledgeable party and diplomatic sources say, a major facelift is on the anvil. Najibollah is on the lookout for ministerial replacements who are not too closely identified with the PDPA, they said, adding that the search was difficult.

"The changes should have come a long time ago, maybe last year," a Soviet diplomat said. "If you are ready to transit, you have to demonstrate the willingness to change.

"There is no way even moderate mujahidin will accept a party man as defence minister or interior minister.

"That is the main problem for party functionaries. They are afraid of losing their jobs, afraid that the new power structure will be used to hound them. But they have to realise that the alternative is a continuation of war."

Mazdak, Watan's deputy chairman, admitted to the possibility of a thorough facelift.

"Obviously when you talk of reform, you eliminate something which is there which should not be there," said Mazdak, 36. "It is also natural that there is a lot of misunderstanding and tension in the process. But the main course of development is towards reform.

"Everything is possible in reform."

"It can include expulsions, new inductions, change of ideological bases and action programmes."

Mazdak denied that change so far had been only cosmetic, but conceded that reforms have been slow because the government is still fighting a war.

"The Armed Forces are fighting," he said. "How can we depoliticise them, remove party cells in places like Paktia, Qandahar (or) Laghman?"

Still, the party hopes to restore neutrality in the Armed Forces "from top to bottom," Mazdak said.

Some analysts doubt the effectiveness of such changes after 13 years of one-party rule, and 60 percent of the Watan party's estimated 160,000 members are employed by the Defence, State Security and Interior Ministries.

"Depoliticisation is notional as long as loyalty systems remain the same," said one sceptical diplomat. "But the party has to demonstrate some political progress before settlement talks are possible and for that the changes are necessary."

Mazdak said the scepticism was unfair.

"There has been substantial change in the thinking of the party," he said. "It is possible to make the whole party new."

Ties With Soviets 'Straight Business'; No Aid

BK2010014991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0110 GMT 20 Oct 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 20 (AFP)—Generous Soviet handouts which have kept the Afghan Government afloat will not be forthcoming when a Soviet delegation arrives here Monday to talk business, a Soviet diplomat says.

"We have no economic ability or potential to give aid," the diplomat told AFP. "We shall discuss mutually beneficial economic cooperation for 1992. No more grants—only cooperation."

The Soviet delegation, which is to consist of representatives of several Soviet republics, will ink business agreements with the government of Afghan President Najibollah after finding out what Kabul can offer in return, the diplomat said.

The prospect of a straight business relationship is a daunting one for an Afghan Government which is almost totally dependent on Soviet supplies of food and fuel. This year, Moscow is committed to supplying 200,000 tonnes of wheat and 500,000 tonnes of fuel, gratis.

Soviet Ambassador Boris Pastukhov said at an October 13 press conference that the commitments would be met, despite Moscow's serious economic difficulties.

His colleagues at the Soviet Embassy here put the cost of the aid—excluding military supplies, which have no book value—at about 180 million dollars a year.

As the two countries switch from a donor/recipient relationship to one based on commercial considerations, Moscow is insisting on hard currency payments for everything Kabul needs, from sugar to soup to petrol, Afghan officials say.

Trade between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan has until now been conducted under a sort of barter arrangement, with one dollar pegged at 81 Afghans.

"We have enjoyed a special relationship with the Soviet Union, but that relationship is now changing," acknowledged Abdul Rahman Ahmadzai, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries here.

"As the Soviet Union is changing into a market-oriented economy, naturally it will have an effect on us," he said. "They want dollars now."

Soviet officials said traditional Afghan exports such as furs and skins, dried fruits, carpets and handicrafts have lost their charm for the Soviet Union, where the main requirement is now industrial raw materials.

The one thing Afghanistan does have which the Soviets really want is natural gas, deliveries of which were interrupted for security reasons preceding the Soviet troop withdrawal in February 1989.

Under an agreement reached late in March, Kabul announced that it was to export 1.2 million cubic metres (42 million cubic feet) of gas annually to the Soviet Union, but it was not stated when the gas sales would be resumed, and some Afghan officials said differences had developed on the price of the gas.

They said the Kabul government also suspected the Soviets were tampering with meters which measure how much gas is pumped, in an attempt to show shipments were smaller than they actually were.

Natural gas sales to the Soviet Union were bringing Afghanistan the equivalent of 300 million dollars a year when the wells that provided the exports were plugged.

Soviet officials said that with future Soviet-Afghan economic ties based on commercial considerations, private business would play an increasingly greater role in trade.

In recent weeks, the Afghan Government has turned to entrepreneurs to import food and fuel from Soviet republics to build a winter buffer, and Afghan businessmen are trying to strike deals with their Soviet counterparts for wheat, petrol and vegetable oils.

In turn, they have set up offices in most major Soviet republics for their exports.

Food minister Anwar Dost said Kabul was looking forward to doing more trade with individual Soviet republics such as Armenia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, but for trade to take off, Kabul would need hard currency—which is in short supply.

One Western diplomat said there are considerable obstacles to a significant trading relationship.

"Dry fruits and things like that is basically peanuts," said the diplomat, who is based here. "Why should the republics give anything to Afghanistan, which has no money."

The diplomat compared economic cooperation agreements between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to "a marriage between two cripples."

Observers stress the political symbolism rather than the practical significance of the Soviet delegation's visit, seeing it as a sign of continuing Soviet support for Najibollah's government.

Soviet diplomats agreed the visit could be interpreted as a signal by Moscow to Najibollah's rivals that it was not abandoning its former client at a time when diplomatic moves have intensified toward the formation of a transitional government.

"What point would there be in sending a delegation to sign agreements which may have to be renegotiated when a new government takes over here?" a Western observer said.

But while political signals may be important, they will not make up for the loss of the precious aid which the Soviets are no longer able to guarantee.

Moreover, arms aid will stop January 1 under September's U.S.-Soviet agreement to halt weapons shipments to Kabul and the resistance.

Soviet Ambassador Pastukhov, however, said Kabul has no need to worry, citing the legendary business acumen of Afghan traders for whom, he said, he would gladly exchange Soviet businessmen.

USSR Delegation Postpones Visit

BK2110102691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Kabul, Oct 21 (AFP)—A Soviet economic delegation which was to arrive Monday in Kabul has postponed its visit by a week, a Soviet Embassy spokesman said.

He said domestic preoccupations had resulted in the delayed visit, during which the delegation was to discuss economic cooperation for 1992 with the Afghan Government of President Najibollah.

The spokesman said the team, which will be made up of representatives of individual Soviet republics, was now scheduled to arrive October 28.

India

Rao Hopeful of Resolving Issues With Pakistan

BK1910095091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has expressed his confidence that all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan can be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations. Speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport on his return from Harare today, he referred to his talks with the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Rao said they covered all outstanding issues, tried to understand each other's minds, and agreed to continue the dialogue.

Replying to a specific question, the prime minister said since they had not arrived at any conclusion, they have decided not to say anything to the media.

In response to a question on Pakistan's involvement in supporting terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and the kidnapping of the Romanian diplomat, Mr. Rao said that all these issues were discussed during his meeting with the Pakistan prime minister. He asserted that India is getting full cooperation from the British Government on terrorist-related problems.

Mr. Rao, who had gone to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit in Harare, said by and large the recommendations of the New Delhi Commonwealth foreign ministers' meeting on South Africa were endorsed. He said the summit had agreed to lift the sanctions against South Africa in future. Describing the summit as good and very successful, Mr. Rao said the main concern of the developing countries has been given priority in the draft document to be adopted at the meeting later today. He said this will be [words indistinct] by restoring the necessary balance on the development aspects among the countries of the Commonwealth in their future program.

Mediation Offers Rejected

BK1910095691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Oct 19 (AFP)—India and Pakistan have rejected offers by "friendly countries" to mediate between them to help resolve their differences, Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Saturday.

He told a news conference on his return from the Commonwealth summit in Harare that the two South Asian nations, who have fought three wars, would like to overcome their differences bilaterally.

"Some friendly countries had offered to mediate between the two countries, but we politely told them that we do not need mediation and we will sit together to sort out differences," Rao said.

He did not say which countries had offered mediation and on what issue. Neither did he say if the offer was made at Harare, where participants included Commonwealth heads of state including Premier Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan.

Rao said he discussed "all matters including the spate of kidnappings (here) and what was happening across the border (with Pakistan)" with Sharif when they met in the Zimbabwe capital for bilateral discussions.

"We decided to remain in touch and continue the dialogue. I found there was a determination on both sides to resolve the outstanding problems in due course peacefully," he added. [passage omitted]

Rao added that at his meeting with his Sharif, "there was mutual invitation to visit each other's countries, but I do not know who will visit first."

Iran

Reportage on Conference To Support Palestinians

Delegations Arrive in Tehran

LD1710195991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Some 200 political-religious personalities from the Islamic world and delegations from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, South Africa, Tunisia, Guinea-Bissau, Uganda, Thailand, Switzerland, Indonesia, Malaysia, Syria, Libya, Burkina Faso, Niger, Oman, Mozambique, Bahrain, and Sudan, as well as correspondents from various states have arrived in Tehran to participate in the International Conference for Supporting the Palestine People's Islamic Revolution [ICSPPIR]. A Jordanian parliamentary delegation, headed by the speaker of Jordan's Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Tehran last night to participate in the ICSPPIR.

Dignitaries Arrive for Summit

LD1810135791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] In continuation of the arrival in Tehran of Islamic dignitaries, parliamentary delegations, and militant and independent personalities from various parts of the world to take part in the International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, which will be held from tomorrow, thus far, a number of delegations from the countries of Jordan, Pakistan, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Soviet Union, Kenya, Ireland, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Namibia, Benin, Sri Lanka, America, Philippines, and England have arrived in Tehran.

The parliament speakers of Algeria, Jordan, Sudan, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Guinea-Bissau are also among the participants in this conference.

A delegation of independent personalities from Egypt also arrived in Iran last night.

Also Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [General Command], Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad, leaders of the Palestine Resistance Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Lebanese Islamic Unification movement, Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Druze, and Zahir al-Khatib, one of Lebanon's cabinet ministers, are among personages who have already arrived in Tehran.

Chairman Views Objectives

LD1810212991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Musavi-Lari, chairman of the International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine, spoke today at a news conference. He said: The main objective of the conference is to support the intifada and to break the atmosphere of fear created by America and its lackeys in the region, aimed at compromising the Palestinian issue. He added: In the conference—composed of a number of popular and revolutionary personalities—practical ways of supporting the Palestinian revolutionaries and ending their oppression will be examined. He remarked: In the three-sided committees to be set up in the conference, means of giving aid in terms of finance, arms, training Muslim Palestinian resistance fighters, as well as ways of countering the dangerous phenomenon of Jewish migration to the occupied territories will be examined. [passage omitted]

Conference Previewed

NC1910064891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent—live or recorded]

[Text] Good morning listeners of the morning news. I am speaking to you from the Majles, which is the venue for the inaugural session of the international conference in support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people. Today Tehran will witness the largest Islamic conference to study the most important problem in the world of Islam—the Palestinian issue.

The international conference in support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people is to open in a few minutes in Tehran with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. More than 400 dignitaries from 45 countries have arrived in Tehran so far.

During its sessions, the conference will discuss the problems of the Palestinian revolution and practical ways to support the intifadah—the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation—inside and outside the occupied territories, ways to prevent the transfer of Jews to Palestine, and the role of parliaments in supporting the Palestinian revolution.

The objective behind the conference is to coordinate, expand, and intensify anti-Zionist struggles inside and outside the occupied territories, to attract the world's material and moral support for these struggles, to further draw the attention of the Muslims to the danger of the Zionist enemy and its expansionist programs, and to discuss the most important problems and difficulties facing Palestine.

After attending the inaugural conference and hearing the president's speech, the participants in the conference will meet with the esteemed leader. During this afternoon's session at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel, the conference will continue in the form of a general assembly where speeches by the participants will be heard.

Shaykh Tamimi Comments

NC1910065691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent, Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad of Jerusalem—Palestine's Hizballah—described the recent U.S. plot to annihilate the Palestinian nation as extremely dangerous. He said: Since 1948, many plots have been hatched to destroy the aspirations of the Muslim Palestinian nation, but with U.S. efforts to trample on the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation and to achieve a compromise on the Palestinian problem, these plots now have entered an extremely dangerous phase.

Pointing out that the liberation of holy Jerusalem always has been one of the ideals of the Islamic revolution, the head of Palestine's Hizballah stated that people in the occupied territories are impatiently waiting for the outcome of the Tehran conference and hope that this Islamic gathering will be a turning point in the struggles of the Palestinian people.

Karrubi Meets With Participants

NC1910071491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command; (Belkhadem), speaker of the Algerian parliament; and Fathi Shaqaqi, one of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine [as heard], met separately with Mr. Karrubi, president of the international conference in support for the Palestinian people.

During his meeting with Karrubi, Jibril referred to the significance of the time when this conference is being held and said: At a time when the objective of the satanic forces is to destroy the intifadah, this conference is a source of hope for the Palestinian nation.

Karrubi also expressed hopes that this conference will yield useful results for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians—the intifadah.

The Algerian speaker also met with Karrubi yesterday afternoon and discussed the Palestinian problem and the threats emanating from the plots hatched by arrogance and world Zionism.

Fathi Shaqaqi also met with the Majlis speaker and said: We are happy there is a nation in the world to which we can tell our problems and pains. Fathi Shaqaqi pointed out: The international conference in support for the Palestinian people's Islamic revolution will grant us the necessary motive to continue the struggles against the Zionist regime. The leader of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine described Islamic Iran as the only country on whose assistance the freedom-seekers of the world can rely in their confrontation with Zionist plots.

Opening Speeches Given

LD1910092891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine began its work in Tehran a few hours ago.

During the inauguration ceremony of the conference, in which over 400 dignitaries from 45 world countries, as well as leaders of the Palestinian strugglers, are present, first Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, welcomed the guests and elaborated on the significance of holding the international conference in support of the people of Palestine, particularly in the current sensitive situation. He called on the conference to take decisive action against the greatest problem which faces the world of Islam.

In continuation of the work of the conference, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, made some important remarks, urging world Muslims to provide the people of Palestine with their extensive support. He also announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the people of Palestine with extensive support.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The problem of the people of Palestine is the problem which faces one billion 200 million world Muslims. Therefore, practical ways should be found to fulfill the rights of that nation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks

LD1910121591 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today announced Iran's readiness to join the holy war for liberation of Palestine. He said Iran was even ready to dispatch troops to fight Israel.

"I, as the president of the Islamic Republic, announce that we are ready to contribute to the needs of the Palestinians, and if we could, I would say that we would have provide all their needs," he told the opening ceremony of an international conference on support for the Palestinian people's revolution at the Majlis here.

"The Palestinian people today call for a solution, while asking how should they fight? Where should they fight? Who will take care of their families? Where should their children go to school? How should they obtain money for

their weapons?" the president said, asking the participants to decide how they should help the Palestinians.

The president said, however that Iran cannot afford all the needs of the Palestinians alone, due to the eight-year-long war (with Iraq) it had to suffer itself.

He said Iran was the first country which replaced the Embassy of Israel with a Palestinian one. "Iran is even ready to dispatch troops to fight Israel along with the Palestinians."

Rafsanjani said Iran is not neighboring Israel as certain Arab states do. "I don't know what would happen if we were near Israel, but still we would have stood in the frontline of struggle with Israel."

Rafsanjani said the U.S. is making a "strategic blunder" by securing the entity of Israel in the region through destroying the Palestinian cause. "This would prompt the wrath of one fourth of the world population."

It is also a treason against the American people and the Western world to become subject to the Muslims' wrath. "People will be freed one day and will not allow you to help Israel anymore," he warned.

The president said real strategists were the ones who predicted a good future for their people, and Israel should not be allowed to become a gendarme near the oil fields of the region.

Rafsanjani regretted that the wealth of the Arab countries went to the arrogant powers for arms, instead of supporting the Palestinian people.

He termed the U.S. sponsored Middle East peace conference "an imposed conference" with the aim of sowing discord among the Muslims. "With whom you want to hold discussions in a conference where real Palestinian representatives are absent," he asked.

He said the so-called peace conference may meet their (the participants') demands in short term, but that the situation would not remain so. "We are children of Islam and Kaaba, and Muslims in the history can see a farther future than them (participants at the U.S. peace conference.)"

Muslim-populated republics in the Soviet Union today are calling for Islam after seventy years of captivity under communism, and such Islamic calls cannot be silenced by conferences and accords like Camp David, he added. "In my opinion this (U.S.) conference will have a very weak achievement, if any."

On the transfer of Jews from Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and other parts of the world to the occupied Palestine, the president said such measures cannot overshadow the entity of the Palestinians, who are the main inhabitants of the occupied lands.

Rafsanjani said Palestinians have been scattered throughout the world, and it is the responsibility of this (Tehran) conference to facilitate their reunion. "Arabs have been branded terrorists, while the ruling council in Israel is composed of terrorists, who force the Palestinian Arabs to flee from their hometown," the president said.

The president said Palestine is undoubtedly the most important issue of the Islamic world, although the issues of Kashmir, Iraq, Lebanon, Soviet Muslims and the like still exist. He said some people may think that the Tehran conference is being held at an unsuitable time, when arrogant forces are in an offensive position. But the main objective of the present conference is to find effective and practical ways for supporting the Palestinian intifada, Rafsanjani said.

Perhaps the Zionists think time is ripe to secure their entity now, but they are wrong. "This conference is not a simple and temporary move with the aim of attracting the world's attention, but it intends to throw light on the realities for the Muslim public opinion." The president said, adding that Israel cannot continue to exist in the region.

Elsewhere the president urged the participants not to raise simple and unimportant topics in the course of the conference, and instead try to determine practical ways for supporting Palestinians.

"A strategic blunder brought the foreign forces to the region to the extent that military bases were set up under the very nose of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said the president without naming Iraq as responsible.

Meanwhile, Majles speaker Hojjat-ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi said the U.S. is aware of the racist and aggressive nature of the Zionist regime, but continued to support this regime "since Washington needs a base in the region to safeguard its own interests." Speaking at the inaugural ceremony he said the amount of the U.S. help for Israel has been reported tens of billions of dollars between 1967 and 1991.

Referring to the transfer of the Jews to the occupied Palestine, whose number he said is expected to reach one million, the speaker said it is a dangerous plot with the aim of changing the Palestinian identity.

"The U.S. and its vassals aim at turning the world attention from the war-mongering policy of the Zionist regime through the so-called peace conference," he said. He also advised the Arab states to take lessons from the past and do not allow the rights of the Palestinian people be trampled. "There is only one solution for the issue of Palestine, and that is the establishment of a Palestinian government," he added. More than 400 representatives from 45 Islamic countries are participating in the four-day international conference.

Khamene'i Addresses Conference

LD1910142591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Speech by 'Ali Hoseyni Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to the international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine, in Tehran on 19 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The problem of Palestine is one of today's great calamities for the world and humanity. Anybody who has any feeling for human beings and human rights and who alleges that he supports the rights of the oppressed people must feel that this is his issue.

We can certainly say that the issue of Palestine and the calamity of Palestine is almost unique in history. [passage omitted] If you consider human calamities you will see that they are all present in the calamity of Palestine: the murder of innocent people, people forced into homelessness and made refugees, torture, imprisonment, exile, etc. [passage omitted]

If those who allege that they support human rights are telling the truth they must then talk about the rights of the Palestinian nation. What nation can you find which, during the recent 45 years, has been subject to torture, has gone through agony, has lost its dear ones and has seen its rights ignred like the Palestinian nation?

The grand conspiracy in the case of Palestine is the fact that the truth was turned upside down. According to the practice of the media of global arrogance and in the propaganda establishments of arrogance and Zionism, one who struggles—in the case of Palestine—for his home, for his human rights, his national rights, is branded a terrorist. The great calamity is this: that such injustices are inflicted on a nation with the approval and confirmation of the civilized world. The so-called civilzed world, the so-called supporters of the human rights, are standing on the side of those who have ignored the many human, divine and legitimate rights of a nation.

The Zionists confisicated the homes of the Palestinians. They deprived the Palestinians of their most basic rights. They set up a government against them in the territory of Palestinians. Today the so-called civilized world—America and the loudspeakers of arrogance—rather than being on the side of that nation which has fallen victim, stand on the side of that outfit which has committed these injustices during these 45 years.

We do not know of any tyranny of this magnitude. They have oppressed an entire nation to this extent. If that nation, out of misery and frustration, makes a move or takes a step, they condemn those measures as terrorism and violence. This is the policy of world arrogance today. Today, the powers of might and gold in the world are united in denying the rights of the Palestinian people.

They try to put aside the humanitarian aspect of this issue, in fact, they try to portray the opposite. Those who care for Palestine care for hundreds of thousands, millions, of people who have been denied human rights. Those who oppose the presence of the usurper Zionist government in the Palestinian homeland care for humanity, they care for the bereaved mothers, for the faithful youth, for those humans who are saying: Give us our homes, do not take away our homeland, do not oppress us so in our own homes. Is this wrong? Is this bullying? Is this violence? If in this world, someone struggles for the rights of one's nation, is that struggle unjust?

We have a question to ask those who say that they are seeking a just solution to the Palestine issue: What is a just solution? Who does Palestine belong to, apart from the Palestinians? You think you can deny the most basic right to a whole nation, that is, the right to a homeland, by changing the name? Do you think you can create a false nationality called Israeli by your propaganda? Is this possible? Is this fair? Is this just?

The issue is different. The issue is that the world of arrogance needs the land of Palestine, which is the geographical heart of the Islamic world, in order to crush Islam; in order to put pressure on Islamic nations; in order to check the Islamic movement.

At this juncture, the Israeli government substitutes the presence of arrogance to maintain the interests of arrogance in this region. That is the issue. Would upright and unbiased people be prepared to let themselves be deceived by the false and filthy propaganda of arrogance about Palestine?

What is the solution? That is what the world is like today. Today the camp of arrogance is bent on violating the greatest rights of the people of Palestine and those of the Islamic nations. How can Islamic nations justify sitting and watching the rights of a Muslim nation being violated and their own rights being violated?

The solution of the Palestinian problem is clear. Those who are deceived by the enemy and intend to go and negotiate with the cause of usurpation, are in fact deceiving themselves. They [arrogance] want to deceive nations, but they will not be deceived.

The solution to the problem of Palestine cannot be found in negotiating with Israel, the usurper of Palestine. Those who are seeking peace in the region should return the Palestinian homeland to them. Then peace will be established.

Why have you gathered togather people from various countries of the world? You have gathered people from Soviet Union, Britain, America, Africa, Asia, India, and other nations from different parts of the world in order to expel people from their homeland. If you seek peace,

it can be achieved. Those who have come from other countries should return to their own homes. Palestine should be returned to the people of Palestine. Palestine belongs to Palestinians.

If the people of the Palestinian homeland, inside Palestine, all over Palestine, without being disintegrated, come and set up a government, then peace will prevail. If you are honest, if you are not hatching any conspiracy against the nation of Palestine and the Islamic nations and Islam, then that is the solution.

But if they do not want to implement that solution, the camp of arrogance shoud know that the problem of Palestine will not be solved with such meetings and comings and goings which they arrange and with those decisions. The Palestinian struggle would not be stopped and should not be stopped.

Israel has proven she does not understand anything but the language of force. You cannot talk to her except with the language of power: the power of a nation; the power of an Islamic Ummah across the world.

You are representatives of the Islamic nations. You representatives of the people of Palestine, representatives of parliaments, of nations are gathered here: decide about Palestine! The decision must be the rescuing of Palestine and no other. This has but one way and that is the way that the elements of the Palestine's holy intifadah have identified and are following it. The way for struggle is within the Palestine territories.

The cure is only this and no other. You are a quarter of the world's population. The Muslims have the greatest tools of power at their disposal. Today the world needs your oil. It needs the crucial region of you life. Why should America be able to impose something on you? Do not tolerate it! Do not accept it! These are not slogans. These are realities, realities which are capable of being realised, being enacted if we try, if we face this enormous divine duty with sincerity. A Muslim and self-sacrificing group— the cream of the Palestinian nation, young and old, men and women—are today struggling in the Palestine territories. Assist them! That is the way! Helping Palestine means helping those elements who are struggling. Helping Palestine does not mean assisting those compromising elements who do not care for Palestine but only for their own personal interests. An organization is acceptable and is the true representative of the Palestine people if it struggles for the aspiration of Palestine, and does not sell out the Palestine aspiration to the enemy and make deals about it.

The Muslim nations must move. They must feel duty bound. All that I feel must be said and we must enact, I have said in the statement and am saying it now as well. The Muslim nations must give all types of assistance to those people who are struggling within Palestine in any way they can. This is a religious duty. This is a divine duty, and a humanitarian one. If today you Muslims retreat, be aware that the enemy has advanced by one trench. The enmity does not end after all! Israel advanced by one trench. America, which is the enemy of the Islamic world, advanced by one trench. If you retreat, they advance. Enmity does end after all, between them and you nation of Islam.

Arrogance's arrogant demands will not end. You must be decisive here, you must take decisive action. This gathering in Tehran could be an auspicious one. It is in your hands, make decisions. Let the parliaments go and make decisions on Palestine, let them call on governments. Let writers and intellectuals write and awaken public opinion. Students and youth: be ready to announce the demands of the peoples with raised voices.

The people of Iran are ready, we are ready to do all in our power to carry out our duty. We will endure the enmity of arrogance. Let them not threaten us over our support for Palestine and the Palestinian intifadah, for the uprising of the Palestinian people. This support is our duty and we shall carry out our duty. We are not afraid of any threat. Immediately after the revolution, we were threatened by arrogance. Arrogance could not do anything due to divine munificence and power. Again, we shall carry out our duties. [passage omitted]

Security Council Views Issue

LD1910170291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] At this evening's meeting of the Supreme National Security Council, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, recent developments in connection with the Palestinian issue and important international issues were discussed. It was announced at the meeting that Palestine and Qods are Islamic holy lands and belong to all the Muslims of the world. No one has the right to strike bargains over them on behalf of Muslims. The land of Palestine also belongs to the wronged people of Palestine, and the imposition of any system by the Zionists or their allies is unacceptable. The people of Palestine must choose their own system in their own land.

At the meeting, the holding of the conference in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine was also praised; it was hoped that the conference would contribute to the awakening of Muslims and to their awareness of their grave Islamic responsibility at this juncture.

Allegiance to Khamene'i Renewed

LD1910182191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Palestinian Hezbollah, in separate messages to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the participants in the International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine, today renewed allegiance to the Vali-e Amr of the Muslims [Khamen'i], and declared support for the conference.

Part of the Palestinian Hezbollah's message to the leader reads: We declare our total readiness to carry out your eminence's commands, which constitute the only way to our political and crusading movement. We thank you on behalf of the oppressed Palestinian nation, for your eminence's fatherly guidance to the mojahed people of this land, and wish you, the greatest supporter of the Islamic revolution of Palestine, a long life.

Fadlallah on Resolutions

JN1910190191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lebanese scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who is participating in the [Tehran] conference as a member of the large Lebanese parliamentary, popular, and party delegation, has told our radio that during these critical circumstances the conferees will not depend on the declared resolutions of the conference. We expect to adopt secret resolutions, he added, that will materialize publicly at the appropriate time as procedural steps against efforts at settlement.

Majles Offers Support

LD1910192591 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—On the occasion of the international Palestine conference now in progress in Tehran the English daily TEHRAN TIMES Saturday printed the text of the Majles law to support the Islamic revolution of Palestine as ratified in March 1990.

At a time when the United States is scheming to legitimize the illegitimate existence of that "cancerous tumour" of the Middle East, by forcing certain parties to sit at the table with the Zionist terrorists, it is worthwhile for the globe's billion-plus Muslims to earnestly reflect on their usurped heritage, "Bayt al- Moqaddas," Islam's third holy site.

The following are the highlights of the Majles law on Quds and Palestine:

Article 1. Palestine belongs to the Palestinian nation and the usurper Zionist government who has gained domination through cruelty and massacre and crime over this land of Bayt al-Moqaddas, is a usurper and thus condemned. It is incumbent on all the people and nations and human beings of the world, particulaly Muslims and people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to support and defend the homeless and brutalized Palestinians until they achieve their rights.

The Majles is dutybound through various ways to expand and deepen this support and at the right time to hold a conference of represent. tives of Islamic countries and experts.

Article 2. The Islamic Republic Government can establish a humanitarian aid fund to support the Palestinian people and collect the help of Muslims and freedom-loving peoples of the world and spend it for support of Palestinian refugees and the oppressed and combatant people in the intifadah.

Article 3. The Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation and the Islamic Revolution's Foundation for the deprived with the knowledge of leader of Muslims and the Islamic Republic Red Crescent is dutybound to aid spiritually and materially the families of martyrs, maimed, prioners and missing of the occupied territories and other martyrs from other parts of the world who die in the battle for the liberation of Palestine.

Article 4. The ministers of culture and higher education, and health, treatment and medical education are dutybound each year to allocate some share for educating of a number of Palestinian volunteers in the country's universities.

Article 5. For implementation and follow-up and necessary coordinations, a committee comprising of full-powered representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Martyrs Foundation, the commander of the IRGC, Information Ministry, the Janbazan Foundation, Red Crescent and two Majles delegates chosen by the Majles under the supervision of the president or his representative, will be established and every six months will give a report of its actions to the Majles.

Article 6. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Iranian Radio and TV are dutybound to give prerogative support to the Islamic Revolution of Palestine as their priority activity outside the borders of Iran.

Article 7. With respect to historic records, the Majles and Government of the Islamic Republic recognize Bayt al-Moqaddas as the capital and homeland of the Islamic Government-in-exile of Palestine and call on all Islamic countries to officially recognize this city as the capital of the Islamic Government-in-exile of Palestine.

Article 8. Any economic, commercial or cultural contacts with companies or institutions and firms dependent on the Zionists throughout the world must be banned.

This bill was approved in March 1990 by the Majles and the Guardians Council.